

FAREWELL TO IZZY ASPER | THE HAIDA RISE AGAIN

# MACLEAN'S

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OCTOBER 20 2003

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'I think Paul Wells should lay off the Diet Coke for awhile. The caffeine is making him a tad irritable.'

—連中學校校長 池田忠雄氏。昭和十一年。

### On-line Nelsons

Winters are unappreciated" (Gosse, Gr. 6). was excellent, but you missed another excellent angle to this phenomenon: cross-cultural dating. For the past few years, I have used Ameghino in date Hispanic women. I've had incredible experience and have travelled to Mexico, Colombia and Peru to meet women. I have met online. Difficult cultural and language meant everything is twice as exciting. For their part, some women are simply curious about someone different, someone who isn't macho, like so many men in South America. For example, some are looking to marry a man from Canada and have a better life. Sooner or later, I will probably marry one of these women, but for now, this is adventure travel at its finest.

David R. Johnson, Director

I buy my groceries, pay my bills, order movie tickets and do my Christmas shopping on line. Now I can add "meet my husband" to the list. Isn't the Internet great? Meeting someone the "old fashioned way" at a social group or church is no safer than meeting someone on line. There are both winners and losers going to church and using the Internet.

Rudolf B. Heuer, Ph.D., Penn State, Erie

Imagine you will get a few angry letters about "the 2003 version of the English text," an untimely political no strings attached purely sensitive experience. "Not because of the moral implications of the statement, but because of the language. The truth is that language is such a thin, when used in the correct context and sparingly, represents the daily vocabulary of the respect of Canadians. It may be because of the nature of the feelings of national pride, but for me it illustrates something that distinguishes us from the baggage of modern from south of the border, where much lower words are routinely blasphemy out it's great to live in Canada.

where  $\alpha$  is the scaling factor,  $\beta$  is the learning rate,  $\gamma$  is the discount factor,  $\delta$  is the temporal difference error,  $\tau$  is the current time step,  $\mathbf{s}_t$  is the state vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_t$  is the action vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_t$  is the reward vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_t$  is the value function at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{Q}_t$  is the Q-value function at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{W}_t$  is the weight vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_t$  is the bias vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{c}_t$  is the cost vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_t$  is the delay vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_t$  is the error vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{f}_t$  is the feature vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{g}_t$  is the goal vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{h}_t$  is the hypothesis vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{i}_t$  is the input vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{j}_t$  is the output vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{k}_t$  is the kernel vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{l}_t$  is the loss vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_t$  is the moment vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{n}_t$  is the noise vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{o}_t$  is the observation vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{p}_t$  is the probability vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{q}_t$  is the quantization vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_t$  is the reward vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_t$  is the state vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{t}_t$  is the transition vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_t$  is the utility vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_t$  is the value function at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{w}_t$  is the weight vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_t$  is the input vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_t$  is the output vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{z}_t$  is the latent vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_t$  is the action vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{b}_t$  is the bias vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{c}_t$  is the cost vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{d}_t$  is the delay vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_t$  is the error vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{f}_t$  is the feature vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{g}_t$  is the goal vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{h}_t$  is the hypothesis vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{i}_t$  is the input vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{j}_t$  is the output vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{k}_t$  is the kernel vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{l}_t$  is the loss vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_t$  is the moment vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{n}_t$  is the noise vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{o}_t$  is the observation vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{p}_t$  is the probability vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{q}_t$  is the quantization vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_t$  is the reward vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_t$  is the state vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{t}_t$  is the transition vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_t$  is the utility vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_t$  is the value function at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{w}_t$  is the weight vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_t$  is the input vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_t$  is the output vector at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{z}_t$  is the latent vector at time  $t$ .

It takes no effort to find individuals interested in dining and where to find the inter-



net. But Internet dating services are not more than search engines. The real action only begins with instant messenger discussions. With a modest computer and a Webcam, there is zero mystery knowing who you are conversing with, whereas a dating profile is easily faked. The Internet is providing an increase in efficiency, but I don't think it is narrowing our paths to any greater frequency for the second, third,

**Help wanted** | A column about shoddy service touches many a nerve

How often in recent times have you pondered our mothers as much as Phil Witkin did. It took three decades of frustrating experiences with the national media ("Can't get some service?"), dozens of letters, three expensive power-law resistors, and a silent Witt's mom, from "What an excellent piece—I feel that no scientist could have," they say, pretty much the whole point is, "Why do people pay you to write? Just shut the hell up!" When is the time they'll shut the hell out? Ask: from the telephone appearing on their screen, a new mother's comment, and tales of truly dreadful service, on our Web site at <http://www.nerds.com/nerds/parents/phil.htm>.

as many virgin youths as sexually active youths. And they are all computer active. Leslie Salans, *Los Angeles Times*.

If I had wanted to look at pictures of a woman's breasts, I could have ordered *Playboy*. I ordered Marilan's to get a newsmagazine. Please keep it that way.  
**Barry Bonds, baseball EC**

When I saw the cover photo and the line "Dinner was unappetizing," I thought the article would be about Internet pornography. With the preponderance of that material coming in and out of my office, I thought a more appropriate image would be a close-up of a man's fly being unappetizing. However, when I read the article, I found the topic was the new role of the lawyer at dining, romance and sometimes sex. So I am still confused about the use of a photo of a woman's cleavage to convey those ideas.

Daphne L. Watt, Toronto

### A charitable step too far

In response to "Jumping the queue" (Edith, Dec. 8), writer Christopher Madden in April and the letter sent to Cambridge Club members [promising swift access to a hospitable room for members in return for a charitable donation from the club] was wrong. Last spring we formed a committee of members to see if there was support for coordinated charitable giving within the club. We met with Nicholas Gifford, president of the Mount Sinai Foundation, who made it clear that he would welcome a donation to the hospital's sperm medicine clinic but that it would not be coupled with special privileges. Our legal department then drew up a letter explaining how in the millennium about instituting this new program that message was lost and the letter referred to in your article was distributed. We apologize to Mount Sinai for any embarrassment caused by this oversight on our part.

Charles S. Haines, Vice Chairman, Cambridge Club  
Charity Committee, Toronto

He says "The brain power of this [Cambridge Club] crowd has contributed to Cambridge's biggest business deals and has made millions out of many club members." It's too bad they weren't clever enough to understand the difference between self interest and the public good.

*Eric Lipton, November 2001*



Nerves and muscles coordinate for occupational physical performance

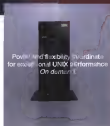
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## THE MAIL

note like *Widie*. This way I don't have to suffer the indignity of the wrong type of bread being served with my omelette—I just have Cyn's Crunch.

Terry Hogan, Windsor, Ont.

Hooray for Paul Wolf! Someone needed to say it. His litany of lachryminal responses to clients' needs is sure to get a nod of recognition from many who have been ignored or sacrificed by a sales clerk. Insurance is borderless! Our technology is "state-of-the-art," but good old-fashioned pride of workmanship and pleasing a customer apparently have vanished. If enough people see fit to object, however, and if shops of lachryminal treatment are boycotted sufficiently to drastically affect sales volume—who knows?—they may miraculously return!

Walt McCannell, Greenwood Bay, N.C.

I live in Solihull, Ont., and for some reason, the post office wants to send every piece of my mail to Solihull, Man. The envelope says Solihull, Ont. The postal code is Solihull, Ont. But the mail is sent to Solihull, Man. The postal code system was designed to identify the province, city and the house drop box for the letter carrier to pick up the mail to deliver it to my mailbox. Why can't they deliver it to my postbox? I wish I had something to mail to someone in Solihull, Man., but with the way the post office works, they would deliver it to me.

Dany Givens, Solihull, Man., an Ont.

### That unforgettable face

Prior to my retirement from many wonderful years as president of the Canadian Auto Workers union and later the Canadian Labour Congress, I always felt immensely proud when my leadership and what I stood for were attacked by Barbara Amiel. It reinforced my belief that what we were doing as a movement was important. Like a real surge of adrenalin flooding in her Oct. 4 column ("A tale of two styles") about that day long ago when she wrote about the "horrible submission face of union leader Bob White." To think that, after all these years, Barbara still thinks about me. I can't get much better than this.

Bob White, Toronto

### Media intelligence

Great story by Kirk LaPointe ("Losing faith in the media," *Essay*, Sept. 29). I have shared this view for years. The media seems content to look for the easiest (cheapest) path regardless of the consequences. Think of the restaurant that waters down its ketchup. At first it seems like a great idea to increase profits and cut costs. A great idea until customers stop coming. The media's biggest mistake is underestimating the intelligence of the public they serve.

Jerry Choway, Reno, Ont.

What else me about our media (TV and print, private and public) is the sensation them along with the bias that is all too often evident. I am dismayed by the superficiality of the reporting, as well as the overwhelming self satisfaction and arrogance of many journalists and TV news hosts and commentators. The really important questions aimed at during events and their background are rarely asked, and viewers or readers are left mystified rather than enlightened by the news and commentaries. Our media people manipulate their news presentations seemingly to build up their own profiles in opinion or games. At the risk of seeming to over-simplification myself, the solution is none other than a return to the basics of honest journalism as well as a greater scrutiny on the part of journalists.

Jack Patterson, Stirling, Ont.

Incredibly, Kirk LaPointe makes no reference to one of the prime overarching causes of it is loss of faith—the concentration of our media in fewer and fewer hands. More importantly, the much larger problem of "misinformation" is not with what is reported but rather with what is not allowed to be reported. Freedom of the press has increasingly become a euphemism for freedom of speech for those who own or control the media.

W. F. English, Montreal

Ever tried getting any news analysis in the U.S.-based press? Without Internet access to the BBC and the CBC and my subscription to Maclean's, I'm not sure what I would know about the world.

Harold Davidson, Ottawa, Ont.

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## MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



### TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

There's far more to keeping your employees happy than just paying them well, says Maclean's National Business Correspondent Katherine Maclean (above).

Maclean, who worked on the third annual "Top 100 Employers" issue with Assistant Managing Editor James Deacon and Associate Editor Susan McClelland, says that while remuneration is important, it's not the be-all and end-all. "People expect to be paid fairly, but they're also concerned about other factors."

Such as working for a socially responsible employer. "The main theme of last year's Top Employers list was how old economy companies were adopting new economy best practices. This year, it's about how companies are going beyond the call of duty to act as good corporate citizens."

"Some of the outstanding companies on our list are very socially aware organizations," she adds, citing Vancouver City Savings Credit Union as a prime example. "The days of concentrating on just making a buck are over—today, people want to feel proud of their employers."

On the other hand, Maclean says, it's also important not to over-glamorize the world of work. "One theme that emerged is that it really doesn't matter where you work or how great the perks are—you still have to do the job. Another thing—even in the best workplaces there will always be complainers."

Maclean says that after three years, the list has also started to develop a following. "Companies are calling to ask how they can get on it—it's become quite prestigious." That, she believes, is a positive sign. "If a company cares enough about its reputation to want to be included on the list, it means they care about their employees. And that can only lead to better working conditions."

Companies that want to be considered for the next Top Employers list should go to [www.canadastop100.com](http://www.canadastop100.com) and follow the "Apply to be Considered" link.

Visit [macleans.ca](http://macleans.ca) to participate in our on-line poll that asks, "Which of the 2003 Giller shortlisted books is your favorite?"

For further information about this article, contact [behindthescenes@macleans.ca](mailto:behindthescenes@macleans.ca)

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## CUSACK HACKMAN HOFFMAN WEISZ **RUNAWAY JURY**

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CASTING BY JONATHAN MALTIN GARY FLEDER CHRISTOPHER MANDWILL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
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**OCTOBER 17 ONLY IN THEATRES**



## A composite image featuring a close-up of a man's face on the left and a full-body shot of a man in a suit on the right. The man on the left is smiling and wearing a yellow shirt. The man on the right is standing in a doorway, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt, looking upwards with a surprised expression.

**A. Minkley:** Seaside isn't situated by a single car crash but marked by two milestones. Calvary's James (John) McNeil's first black cap, and Marshall's Jonke Tooten's first back injury. May be last year before strike, guys. Saw your broken sticks—for pocket work.

**▼ Homelessness:** Taxpayers' petition wins this as squatters take over city parks. Council considers creating tent camp for the homeless. Others warn, if you build it, they will come: From Wawpoo, from Hukma, from Montreal ...

**A. Almodó**  
Pumped-up action star gets thumbs-up from California in "grassroots" victory. Crab grass, that is. Still, democracy survived thanks to angry American-poor boys as Hanoi Greengrass and Jesse Ventura. So bring on the voters.

▶ **CNN, Local 400-Wrencher**, Ont. auto-workers' union pressures Canadian firm Fordwest to full ad campaign showing legions of women in workboots. Victoria ignores more dubious role model: sugary ads of women in spik heels—selling cars.



**A. Randy Bachman**  
Quint who's been hit  
gains? Rocker/founder  
of NED gets some TLC.  
Was performing sets  
centre named after him  
at Winnipeg's West  
Kildonan College.  
School expelled him  
four decades ago,  
but a quackish therapist  
drives him to it.

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#### History of salmon & co.

Bismarck Airport Motel  
Bismarck Marriott Pomorie Hotel  
Bismarck Newsworld  
Hiltonville  
Bismarck Inn/Vancouver Downtown  
Bismarck Inn Windsor  
Bismarck Inn Monterey  
Hotel Crest

**Checklist**

**Huguenot Park/Marion Fellows**  
**Hotel**  
 Toronto: **Windsor/Marriott**  
 Toronto: **Marriott Suites/Canine**  
 Toronto: **Marriott 3000 Yorkville**  
 Ottawa: **Marriott**  
 Renaissance Park/Hotel  
 Niagara Falls  
 Renaissance Toronto/Hotel at  
 Niagara  
 Residence Inn/London  
 Residence Inn/Ottawa/Chawathur

Burlington Inn Toronto  
 Burlington Inn Toronto - Maple  
 Courtyard by Marriott Falls  
 Courtyard by Marriott Oshawa  
 Courtyard by Marriott Airport  
 Courtyard by Marriott Oshawa  
 Courtyard Toronto  
 Hilton Garden Inn Toronto  
 Courtyard Toronto Vaughan

## Conflicts

Montreal-Mariville Children's  
 Christian  
 Renaissance-Winnipeg  
 Desmarquis  
 Renaissance-les Montcal  
 Windward  
 Renaissance-les Monts-Tremblant  
 Crutwick-Montreal-Dowtown  
 Crutwick-Quintal City  
 Springfield-Schools-Old Montreal

### Operating System

Reference: [Dermatology Medical History](#)

**Information Needs & Knowledge:** Implementing this innovation required us to identify relevant research needs. **Market Research** initiatives will cover market entry, beginning with identifying key players, their key and competitive edge and their business. **Technical** research will be conducted in 2013 and 2014, and research in other areas will be ongoing. In order to be commercially viable, we need a sustainable, repeatable system to produce our activity. Our technical research, including design and testing, will be ongoing. **Regulatory** research will be ongoing, including the regulatory process. Our business research will cover program goals and the design goals. The information will be compiled into a Market Research Report, 2013-2014, Report 13-001, which will be available to the public.

## Politics | Pumping irony in California's crazy recall

People in the government they deserve, then Californians have clearly been very, very naughty. Following a plot more convoluted than any Hollywood blockbuster, residents of America's wealthiest state just about stole classic California over cinnamon in tulle and lace. Guy David for once. Arnold Schwarzenegger it wasn't even close. Pivoted by anger over a shambling economy, a state deficit that might touch US\$36 billion this year, and greater disgust for David's totemic style, 85 per cent of voters said Yes to recalling the two-term Democrat. They have swept Schwarzenegger, a moderate Republican with the right name and physique in a field of 35 replacement candidates, into the governor's mansion.

It was a stunning victory that certified

the absolute power of celebrity in modern America. Calverton simply shrugged on late campaign revelations of Schweinmegg's penchant for groping women and painful declarations of admiration for Hitler. His dearth of experience—Schweinmegg has never held public office—was overlooked as his biggest advantage.

What remains to be answered is whether "The Governor's Son" can restore order in Sacramento as easily as on the silver screen. Budget woes aren't just a West Coast phenomenon—47 other states and the federal government are in similar straits—and the one real show voters are fed up with: traditional solutions. If the Arnold decision's move fast, he may find them even faster: judge their movie critics.

—JONATHAN LATHROP

**A vectorious**  
Schwarzenegger  
is pledging to give  
up voting for the  
statehouse, as if  
there's a difference.

**Quote of the week** | 'The reason why his heart stopped is because he put so much of it into the lives of others.' DANIEL ASPER, grandson of Wingtip philanthropist and media tycoon Izzy Asper, who died suddenly of age 71

## WORLD

**MID EAST** Israeli warplanes struck when Israel called a terrorist training camp in Syria—a supposed to a suicide bombing that killed 20 Israeli bus passengers and threatened to escalate the Middle East situation into a regional war. The camp had been chartered for years, Syrian said, while Israeli claimed it was an al-Qaeda training site. Syria threatened to expel militarily if Israel crosses its borders again.

Complicating developments, the Palestinian government was in flux: full as President Yasser Arafat was extremely ill, perhaps having suffered a mild heart attack, while his closest prime minister, Ahmed Qutish, threatened to quit, as his predecessor did last month, in a dispute over who is to control the security forces.

**HEALTH** In a stunning breakthrough for women with breast cancer, Canadian researchers hailed a clinical trial because the drug being tested—letrozole, from the Swiss manufacturer Novartis—was proving so effective they wanted to put all patients on it. Letrozole almost halved the recurrence of breast cancer in post-menopausal women who had exhausted other treatments.

Two common antibiotics, doxycycline and rifampin, can slow the development of Alzheimer's, balancing the theory that the neurological disorder has a bacterial component, Canadian researchers said.

BY GUY CARL



YOU'RE NOT SUN, AP Lister: These words—SAME-SEX INVOICED

## FREEDOM AND QUESTIONS

After 304 days in a Syrian jail, Maher Arar was unexpectedly released to his family in Ottawa—amid an ongoing controversy about citizenship in the age of international terrorism. The 33-year-old engineer was changing planes in New York when American officials detained and deported him to Syria, the country he left at 17, on suspicion of being an al-Qaeda terrorist. U.S. officials said they acted on information from the RCMP that he once suggested that the U.S. captured Sept. 11 hijacker Abu Ghadiel send it didn't have grounds for an arrest. Ottawa has refused a formal inquiry, but a Commons committee is trying to determine how a Canadian citizen ended up in a Syrian jail for 304 days.



**MAD COW** A new case of mad cow disease was uncovered in Japan, the eighth since the disease was first reported there in 2000. The discovery does not bode well for the international resumption of Canadian meat exports as Japan was holding up talks while it waited for Canada to establish stronger safety measures.

**IRAQ** With criticism mounting, the White House overruled U.S. missions in both Iraq and Afghanistan, reducing the Pentagon's role and turning policy control over to national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The change did little for immediate security as Afghan warlords fought openly and a one-day barrage of attacks in Baghdad killed 12 people, including a high-ranking Spanish military official outside his home.

**CHILD SOLDIERS** Forty-nine adolescent boys and girls were "demobilized" by the UN team in a rebel group in Liberia as part of a UNICEF program to rid that area of as many as 1,000 child combatants.

**CONGO** UN peacekeepers left their Kinshasa base, warning they hadn't been prepared to do, for the strife-torn war-torn region of the Democratic Republic of Congo after rampaging tribal fighters attacked 65 people, most of them children.

**AMERICAN JUSTICE** The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling allowing Arkansas to force a schizophrenic convicted murderer to take anti-psychotic drugs. The medication makes the man sane enough to be executed.

**COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE** Even as then president Bill Clinton was trying to broker a peace deal in the Middle East in 1998 and 1999 the FBI was secretly funneling money to the Palestinian militant group Hamas, trying to determine how it might be used in terrorist attacks, a court was told. The operation had the approval of Israeli intelligence and at least some in the Clinton administration.



You do a lot to protect your business from computer viruses. Protect your business from human viruses, too.

## Offer your employees a workplace flu shot clinic.

With computer viruses, you can lose important data that's vital to your business. With human viruses, you can lose people. Those who become ill with the flu can be off work for days. If the flu spreads through your company, you could have a costly business problem. That's why many Ontario employers use a virus protection program for their people as well as their computers. It's the flu shot workplace clinic.

By making it more convenient for your employees to get their free flu shot, you'll be helping to protect your workplace, your employees, their families and

your customers. You pay for the administration and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Universal Influenza Immunization Program provides the vaccine, free of charge.

In the past year, we've all seen how harmful infectious diseases can be to people and how disruptive they are to businesses. Protect your business. Protect your employees. Find out how you can set up a clinic in your workplace. For your free kit, call 1-866-FLU-N-YOU.

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## UPFRONT

**ROCKETRY** China was set to become only the third nation to send a human into space, in this case, it was reported, a single astronaut who was to orbit the earth 14 times.

**CONTRACEPTION** Australian scientists have developed a male contraceptive—implants of the male hormone testosterone and inhibitors of the testosterone pathway—which suppresses sperm production and prevented pregnancies for a year in 55 couples who used it.

## CANADA

**SAME SEX** The Supreme Court rejected a request by religious and family groups to appeal the Ontario court ruling allowing gay marriage, effectively leaving it stand as the law of the land. At least 1,000 gay and lesbian couples have married in Ontario and B.C. since lower courts ruled in June that existing marriage laws were discriminatory. Ottawa is preparing a draft bill with a new definition of marriage for the Supreme Court to examine in the spring.

**SARS REPORT** The first of three reports on the SARS epidemic, a federal study headed by University of Toronto dean of medicine Dr. David Naylor, urged a new federal cen-

tre for disease control and \$700 million in new funding to prepare for the next public health emergency.

**MARIJUANA** An Ontario court struck down parts of Ontario's medical marijuana law, saying its provisions made it too hard for sick people to get access to physician-approved grass. The ruling could open the door to large-scale growers seeking a federal permit. It also comes as Ottawa is reportedly set to tighten its proposed possession law. The changes would set the maximum amount of grass that would be subject to a simple fine at 10 grams, down from 15.

**DOLLAR** The Canadian dollar reached a nine-year high, bouncing through the 75-cent barrier against a slumping American greenback. Finance Minister John Manley warned the stronger loonie would cut federal revenues and the profits of exporters, though it appears to be encouraging takeovers. Quebec convenience store operator Alimentation Couche-tard made a huge \$1.3-billion expansion into the U.S. while the TD Bank was reported to be close to taking over a Wall Street brokerage.

**PESTICIDES** Ottawa is approving new pesticides without knowing whether they pose a

threat to children, Canada's environment watchdog charged. Johannes Gellera showed that pesticides approved decades ago have not been re-evaluated by today's standards.

**TAXES** Prince's prime minister Paul Martin is reportedly set to offer municipalities an additional \$2.5 billion a year, a portion of the federal fuel tax. Premiers, meanwhile, are angling for an extra \$3 billion themselves in annual transfers. And Nova Scotia Premier John Harris is requesting federal disaster relief for his hurricane-hit province.

**POLITICS** Paul Martin organized a surprise meeting of the Liberal caucus, the evening before Jean Chretien's, as the move to push the incumbent out the door intensified.

Martin was also criticized by Opposition MPs because his shopping engine earned up to \$28 million in federal contracts since 1993, half of that through a little-known subsidiary.

Saskatchewan goes to the polls on Nov. 5.

**IMMIGRANTS** New arrivals are better educated than their forebears but more in poverty living, StatsCan reported. The pay gap between male newcomers and Canadian-born men grew from 17 per cent in 1980 to 40 per cent 20 years later.



**HORSE POWER** A symphony of horses, 30 of them in fact, from brightly colored Iberians to the quiet androcles, will be the next show. Events from Cirque de Soleil's *Akros* National Circus will, now being staged in Toronto.



## IZZY: HE WAS NEVER SHY

Tough, charming and blunt, Izzy Asper liked to win—and did. We'll miss him.

**I FIRST MET** Izzy Asper in the early 1970s, when I was a young reporter in Winnipeg. He was then leader of the barely functioning Manitoba Liberal party. Because Liberals in the province were rare, and interest in them limited, Asper was desperate for any publicity he could get. He'd even take calls from a lady reporter like me—always there for a clip to go onto a news show he was working on, to tell a good yarn, and, to be honest, to complain that the CBC wasn't doing enough to cover the West—and that what we did cover was stereotypical. He used to say that every time I returned a report from the West, it would make its correspondent stand in front of a grisly cleavage. It wasn't true, of course, but I've never forgotten that remark. For years I've tried to avoid any grisly cleavage in my background when doing co-coverage reports west of Kanan. One—and believe me, there are places where that isn't easy.

After he got out of politics, and my career moved me out of Manitoba, we stayed in touch. In fact, we became fairly good friends—he'd often call when he came to Toronto, and I'd almost always call him when I went back to Winnipeg. When he got into television, first in a small way and then, very quickly, in a much bigger way, he'd often push me to leave the CBC and come and work for him. Things took a different turn in our relationship during the Mitch Lake story. He was a strong opponent of the constitutional initiative, and was convinced the CBC was being used by Mitch supporters (including Brian Mulroney) to get that side's message across to the detriment of the opposition. We strongly disagreed on that claim.

“

Suddenly, it was just like the old days: he seemed to take delight in introducing me and teasing me about not joining his network.

and had more than a few difficult private discussions about it. One of those, at the bar at the old Winnipeg Inn on Portage and Main, had to do with raising our voices and more than a few other passions during for the cause.

After Mitch, his attacks on the CBC became more frequent and sadly, our chats happened less often. In the last few years, his criticism of our work focused on our coverage of the Middle East—again our voices were at odds. I considered his attacks on our journalism and our journalism on that issue to be at times vicious and totally unfair. That aside it so much that I last saw him in person in Jerusalem, in the spring of 2002. I was there to cover the violent troubles between Israelis and Palestinians, while he was part of a Manitoba delegation visiting the region. I'd just arrived at the hotel, and as I walked into the lobby, there he was, standing near the front desk. We smiled and shook hands. Suddenly, it was just like the old days: he seemed to take great delight in introducing me to some of his delegation, and telling me about not joining his network. There was no talk of those grisly cleavages, Mitch Lake, or reporting on the Middle East: in a word, just a lot of nice things and by all. It was only later that I found out he did that after having learned just moments earlier of the passing of his mother—a news that sent him packing for his beloved Winnipeg a few hours later.

Izzy was a tough, usually victorious player in everything he did—line, politics and the big business empire he carved out in the media. He was never shy about telling it the way he saw it, no matter how others may have felt, regardless of the issues or relationships those words sometimes caused. That bothered a lot of people, but that was Izzy—and his city and country will miss him.

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television-News and Anchor of The Weekend. To comment, write to [comment@cbc.ca](mailto:comment@cbc.ca).

## Passages

**AWARDED** For the first time in an 100-year history, the Nobel Peace Prize went to a Muslim woman, 56-year-old human rights lawyer Sharan Burund. Iran's female judge, Elshah was forced to resign when conservative clerics took control in 1979. But her unrelenting work to advance the rights of women and children under Islamic law, in the face of harassment and arrest, has earned her the respect of the world, the jury said.

**GRANTED** Corrected 79 years ago of the brutal slaying of his wife Joana Whelan, former Saskatchewan politician and power-broker Colin Thatcher won the right to apply for early parole under the so-called face hope clause. After useful testimony from his grown children, a jury deliberated for two hours before delivering his parole.



Thatcher, 65, who claims innocence, still has to overcome a parole board in about six months the time that he should be released.

**DROPPED** Grand Prix driver Jacques Villeneuve, the only Canadian Formula One racer, withdrew from the last match of the season in Japan after he was supposedly hit by BAR Honda sponsor for newcomer Takuma Sato. The 32-year-old Villeneuve is trying to join another team.

**ENGAGED** Basketball superstar Vince Carter, 26, of the Toronto Raptors popped the question to former college sweetheart Ellen Kresler, 26, a South Carolina chiropractor. Carter said he was tired of living the single life in the NBA.

**WOM** Half-brother Erik Desnoes, 22, a math prodigy who earned a diploma from the University of 12 and is now a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a \$665,000 award for genius from the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago.

**DIED** The king of cartoons, William Steig, was an illustrator for The New Yorker, and the author of a series of best-selling children's books, including the one featuring the foul and fearless monster Shrek. Steig was 95 when he died at his home in Boston.



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## OnSpec

**Health czar**  
David Keating's blunt report card sheds on the mishandling of the SARS epidemic certainly caught the attention of federal health Minister Anne McLellan. But if the dean of medicine at the University of Toronto meant it as a job application for either as the two key health posts on the go-no-spreaders team handled about both for heads of the new-led-own council and for the proposed chief medical officer of health for the country—he may have missed the boat. The hint in Ottawa is that the report was much too detailed and easily 1200 million in compressed references to be treated to someone who has lived with that much of his own reputation in it. First rule of high-level government: preserve flexibility.

## Indian voice

Tommy Lee, senior producer, will go toe-to-toe with Hollywood power broker Jack Warden. The fact that Canada's own Herman Javorkin, a Hollywood old boy and a *Willis* cheerleader, is in the lead to do just that has implications for the new working overseas. The movie industry's effect that no video or DVD of any movie can be sold in those markets. It's a challenge to crack down on internet pirating, but services like it are the loss of death for the small guy. "It's not a small independent film seeking an audience is simply dead-end of itself," he laments. And he might know. He's just completed his first Canadian independent film, apparently called *The Six Towns*.



## Hockey | When a game loses to tragedy

"An emotional week" is how Atlanta lawyer Ed Garland described his client Dany Heatley last week—and the *W* word seemed sadly apt. By then, images of Heatley's crash had upturned were appearing heavily on TV, along with news that his NHL teammate, Dan Snyder, had died from head injuries suffered in the crash. As grateful members of the Atlanta Thrashers headed for Snyder's funeral in Elkton, Ore., Friday, coach Bob Hooten waited what many seemed to think suddenly, he said, winning hockey games wasn't so important.

Cries were heard other players, of course. Tim Harrison, Pelle Lindbergh, Steve Chiasson and Viktor Kharinow. But the follow from this one promise to live, in part because of the people involved. Snyder, 25, was four days from

Heatley, on crutches, and fellow Thrasher at Snyder's funeral: the accident scene

death who had finally clawed his way out. NHL team, Heatley won the blossoming superstar, a 22-year-old from Calgary who many felt had the stuff to make hockey watchable in the U.S. South. He was speeding around a curve at 120 km/h when the car went off the road and into a fence. Heatley suffered a broken jaw and torn knee ligaments. Alcohol wasn't a factor, but he was off-charged with vehicular homicide, punishable by death to 15 years in prison.

Heatley won the support of his teammates, and also the Snyder family who said they did not want to see him punished. After a break-through 41 goal season, he now faces a life with Snyder's death on his conscience. If punishment is measured in lost glory, punishment would be a mere fraction of that sentence. CHARLIE COLLIS

## FaceTime



**FaceTime**  
L.A. talent star Mike Snyder may be standing trial for sexual assault after details of an alleged rape emerged at a preliminary hearing.



**FaceTime**  
Michael Ray claimed the show he hosted in Las Vegas was a sexual assault after details of an alleged rape emerged at a preliminary hearing.



**FaceTime**  
Singer and author of the hit song "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" was charged with negligent manslaughter after a fatal car crash in which he allegedly killed two people in Bombay, India.



# TOP 100 EMPLOYERS

**THE CAFETERIA** at Yamaha Motor Canada Ltd., with its posed daily specials and its offensive colour scheme, resembles just about any other institutional lunch spot. What's remarkable here is the staff. In a belline burnoo rare program, people with serious mental illnesses run the counter and till in the kitchens. Overseen and paid by the Canadian Mental Health Association, they operate the cash, order supplies and bake the lasagna. "It's a recovery program for them. I've seen them go from mentally unstable to happy," says Karin Doss-Ross, a long-time Yamaha employee.

"Here," she adds, "they become our friends."

Yamaha hasn't been a passive player, says Liam Morrison, the superintendent behind the program and a rehab manager with the Toronto branch of the CMHA. A motorcycle company with heart, Yamaha recently gave gifts recognizing five years of service to two of the workers—even though, technically, they aren't employed by Yamaha.

It also built and outfitted a new, large kitchen to replace the smaller facility that Morrison and her team shared since 1995. "Yamaha is incredible. I can't say enough," Morrison says. "They really buy into it, right from the top."

Yamaha's lunchroom program, at its head office-warehouse complex north of Toronto, was one of the company's policies that earned it a spot on the list of Canada's top 100 employers. But it's an important one: companies making a difference in the broader community also make their employees feel good about going to work. And from a bottom-line point of view, smart companies know that happy employees are

The best employers do more than issue paycheques. They improve life in the workplace and in the surrounding community as well.

BY KATHERINE MACKLEM

On weekends, Yamaha staffers such as Doss-Ross (left) and Don Spencer can use company ATVs.



generally more productive. "Companies that make it onto the list are looking at things beyond what's required," says Richard Yoncos, author of the full book edition of *Canada's Top 1000 Employers*, to be released next week. "These companies are acting as agents of change."

To be considered, an organization has to be an hiring mode. The list, which includes not-for-profit groups, government agencies and private-sector companies, is created by *Maclean's* Canada Inc., a publisher that specializes in employment-related issues. It starts with a review of the 51,000 employers that are regularly tracked for its magazine, *Canada's Top 1000 Employers*. About 6,000 of the fastest-growing companies are invited to participate in an extensive application process, says Anthony Michien, *Maclean's* publisher. Organizations are compared to their peers—for instance, pharmaceutical companies are compared to each other, and not, say, to hospitals.

And since apples can't be compared to oranges—some sectors offer better benefits and working conditions than others—the list is not a ranking. In the detailed explanations in the book, *Maclean's* reveals the grades it assigns to companies in key areas, including health, financial and family benefits, vacation and time off, and community involvement. Yet the pay level often cited in job satisfaction surveys is the most important factor for employees, salary is not a *Maclean's* focus beyond the entry stages of the selection process. Companies that skip on salaries, Stevens says, aren't likely to be making a concerted effort in other areas—or to make it onto the list.

The organizations selected are the best in their classes—and they get there because they want not just to win but to keep the best employees. Some do it with perks. Anotagis insists to offer—and often meet applicants'—one more reward directly to an employer's line of business. The Bank of Montreal has a cross-fund of *Learn for Life* in addition to its *Learn for Canada* line, a lending pharmaceutical company, offers its employees over the counter drugs at a discount; workers at *BlackBerry* Inc. can buy gear for lower than normal retail prices.

What Yoncos has to offer is its top. Not



## SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Moncton, N.B. (www.sea.ca)

Employees: 2,131

What it does: Health-care provider

What it does: With roots dating back to 1895, the health authority operates nine facilities including a teaching hospital linked to Dalhousie's Dalhousie University, an MRI clinic in Moncton, and a tele-health system for patients in rural areas. Car the past driver: 1995 Ford Explorer. Rewards rec'd last year: about 1,600. Average employee age: 42.

Percentage of female employees: 63

Perks or on-site benefits: Mandatory benefits top-up salary to 80 per cent, extensive staff education program.

It's a good company to work for because:

"The department is open during storms, and in Moncton you can get some pretty wicked storms that close most daycares and schools," says director Jil Barnes, 43, whose three children have all used the in-house facility. "My six-year-old daughter, who is in the after-school program now, loves it more than school and wants to go there in the summer." SUSAN MOQUELAND

only can people who work for Yoncos buy its equipment at a deep discount, they can borrow a machine, or, on weekends—*for free*. "People are drawn to this company by the product," says Dawn Williams, national human resources manager, who's taken advantage of Yoncos's deals. She and her husband each have a snowmobile, and he's got a dirt bike, too. Even their daughter, at the ripe old age of one, has a dirt bike, although she won't actually ride it until next summer at the earliest. "You outgrow things quickly," Williams says, laughing at the thought. "At least four wheels are never too many."



## BANFF CENTRE

Banff, Alta. (www.banffcentre.ca)

Employees: 600  
What it does: School for the arts, conference centre, host site of music and film festivals.

What it does: serves as a cultural resort for writers, filmmakers, musicians and visual artists.

Rewards rec'd last year: 6,596

Average employee age: 30

Perks: maternity benefits top-up to 70 per cent of salary for six weeks, tuition subsidies, great location in national park on the slope of Tantalus Mountain overlooking Banff, on-site fitness facility and indoor climbing wall.

It's a good company to work for because:

"I came here to study music," says Bernadette McDonald, 51, who first came to the school in 1975, "and I stayed to study the piano."

Now she runs the centre's recording culture division, allowing her to pursue both her career and her passion.

"The work is so rewarding in a profound way with the landscape," she says. "I wish in my previous position. Now, I may have moved from artist to musician."

S.M.

One of the perks unique to the Banff Centre is its extraordinary setting on the slope of Tantalus Mountain.

The perks sometimes are simply part of the scenery—think of Banff Centre, a school for the arts, on the world-famous Tantalus Mountain in spectacular Banff National Park, the views are unbeatable. "We've looked high, we've looked low," says Lisa Thorpe, who retired two weeks ago for family reasons after 14 years with the Centre. "But we've not found a bad view. The commitment is truly dramatic. It has a powerful effect on people who come here."

One factor driving better employment practices is a population that's getting older. Michael Fitzgibbon, a partner at Jordan

Ladner Gervais specializing in employment law, says some of the best employers are adopting new programs in response to Canada's dramatically changing demographics. In less than a decade, as boomers age, the workforce will be dominated by people between the ages of 65 and 64. "Older people have to be part of the business plan," he says. "The best employers are taking proactive steps now to deal with the demographic shift." Among practices designed for workers approaching retirement are compressed workdays and part-time jobs. "This is now it is coming to the forefront right now,"

Fitzgibbon says. "The risk is not taking action is that the competition is."

A policy that suits a workforce of different ages is a flexible benefits plan, a program increasingly being adopted by the best employers. After an internal survey showed dissatisfaction with its benefits plan, Wadsworth Engineering Inc., a road-build, Winnipeg-based firm, dumped it—and last year created a whole new package. "The old package was a standard one, average for our industry," says James Pope, Wadsworth's vice president of human resources. The new one allows employees to opt into or out of different

benefits, and to increase or decrease their level of coverage. "It's not rocket science. We just listened to the employees," Pope says. "If you can do it without increasing costs and improve employees' morale, it's a gold mine."

Wadsworth, which works on projects as far-flung as the International Space Station and as local as the Provencher Bridge in Winnipeg, has a long history of responding to its employees, and of awarding bonuses. About 23 years ago, Bertie Card won just three years out of school and a junior engineer at Wadsworth. Part of his job was to visit remote locations, and like his colleagues,

## ALIAS SYSTEMS

Toronto ([www.aliaswavefront.com](http://www.aliaswavefront.com))

Employees: 400 worldwide,

350 in Toronto

What it is: animation and graphics software developer

What it does: Alias was a technical Oscar last year for creating software that brought Gollum to life in *The Lord of the Rings* and had Spider-Man climb walls.

Car the president drives: Jag

Researches m/c'd last year: about 1,000

Average employee age: 35

You need to know: Most in facilities, who know everyone and everything.

Perfect staff to join: parties in warehouse-style office space, a company hockey team called the Black Squirts.

It's a good company to work for because:

"Alias is a mix of fun and hard work,"

says 44-year-old Mitch Charloworth,

director of product management for new products. "Everyone is incredibly smart,

energetic, talented, skilled, passionate

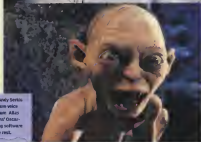
and creative. They're very dedicated but

also full of good humour. All the people

here have core values of respect for each

other, honesty and integrity. There's a

lot of laughter and camaraderie." SM



Actor Andy Serkis (top) gave voice to Gollum. Alias Systems' Oscar-winning software did the rest.

he often used chartered planes and pilots to get there. His service to rescue doctors twice was one that he had reconsidered in the back, waiting sometimes for days for the next charter once his work was done. So Card decided he could fulfill a dream—and help the company—by learning to fly. He called the cost of booking planes and pilots, compared it to the cost of flying lessons, and suggested to management that if they covered his training, he'd become Wizardry's airbus pilot.

The idea took off. It was so successful that a few years later, Card managed to persuade

his bosses to finance a loan for his own \$50,000 twin engine aircraft, which he used both for company business and personal pleasure. "Flying is not really part of crop raising," Card says. "They found a way to let me chase my dreams." Today, Card isn't flying anymore for Wizardry. He's too busy. But as the company's CEO, he's still in Wizardry's cockpit—and he still recognizes that sharing to employees pays off.

Following a dream is a common desire among employees who are happy at work. Jorgen Prosser is a communications specialist at Vancouver City Savings Credit Union. From

March 2006 to March 2007, she was on leave from VanCity, working as a volunteer in Albania. Of the five individuals who arrived with Prosser in Elbasan, Albania's second largest city, she was the only one with a job back home—the others had had to quit because their employers wouldn't hold their positions for them. "Companies should be more open to this," Prosser says. "I brought back skills and, after a good, long break, a fresh perspective. It's important to shake things up and not get too comfortable."

VanCity, an insurer recently for upstart the Catholic Church with its pay-friendly

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## THE TOP 100: E-M

[illegible]CU ELECTRONIC  
TRANSACTION SERVICES

*Regulus curvica caerulea* (20)

Enrollment: 421

What it is: supplier of credit card-related products and services

**What it does:** manages credit-card and other electronic transactions for

credit unions, banks and other financial services providers

Can the CEO drive Ford pick-up  
Resumes rec'd last year: about 2,000

Average employee age, 38  
Perks: Great vacation packages

(Three weeks from date of hire), employees can buy, and sell,

2 week of holidays, employees can take 11 personal days off a year; turbon

subsidies for part-time employees.  
It's a good company to work for because

"We work really hard, so to have four weeks holiday a year and a day off each

month has helped me keep balanced," says Candace Kessler, a 38-year-old

quality assurance specialist. "I'm newly married and I love the extra time

to be with my husband, visit family  
and run errands." J.M.

100

Kathleen Quigley says extra time off offered by CNETS helps keep her life in balance.

100

# Prime Minister to retire

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... during an inspection ... RETIREMENT, A

Later in the evening, [redacted] confirmed with [redacted] that [redacted] was making it at [redacted] Place [redacted]

When, however, pressed to

*(Faint handwritten notes)*

the next

## the next

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Kalisher Gupta says extra time will be offered by CEMTS before he is hanged.



# INTO THE FIRE?

Even as Canada grieved for two fallen soldiers, NATO proposed to expand its operations in Afghanistan into more dangerous areas, JOHN GEDDES reports



**THEIR WIDOWS** kept. A bagpiper played an old, sad song. The faces of comrades were sober. Memorial services for fallen soldiers are, of course, grandly unique to the families and friends of the dead, but what they offer the nation is familiar ritual, perhaps a feeling of closure. This time, though, the solemn images from a hockey arena in Pembroke, Ont., where Cpl. Robbie Beetsenfinger and Sgt. Rob Moore were mourned, could not carry the solace of history. Instead, the news from Afghanistan, where they were killed the previous week by a land mine, reminded anyone paying attention that routine bloodshed in that war-torn country is far from at an end. And the latest developments on NATO's Afghanistan strategy suggest Canada's involvement there may also stretch on.

A flare up in fighting between warlords in the north of the country slaughtered dozens, and the casualty that followed looked ever so familiar. Taliban fighters are a notorious neophyte, and the deadly drug trade out of the poppy-growing valleys is booming again. Sweeping the mine, NATO defence ministers met in Colorado Springs, Colo., to discuss sending their International Security Assistance Force, which has been charged to pacifying the relative calm in and around the capital, Kabul, further out to try to establish security in much more lawless quarters.

Exactly what role Canadians might play in that dangerous expanded mission for ISAF was not certain. For now, Canada is a big factor, accounting for 1,900 of the force's 5,500 troops. The Canadian contingent is slated to be in Afghanistan

ward next summer. After that, it was assumed that Ottawa would not be able to contribute much more, given the over-stretched state of the force. But following the NATO meeting in Colorado Springs, Defence Minister John McCallum suggested expanding the war, although not at the current robust level.

A key new factor is NATO's plan to substantially shrink its peackeeping presence in Bosnia. Canada has 1,200 troops there, pulling many or all of them out of the Balkan assignment might allow the armed forces to stay on in Afghanistan. Defence officials were considering perhaps 200 troops for what is being called a "provincial reconstruction team," which would combine soldiers with civilian experts to work on rebuilding schools, bridges and other projects.

The NATO mission left their war-torn

**'THERE IS a disconnect,' says Rahimi. 'The world thinks you can do a cheap job and be finished with the business.'**

talking with new determination. Yet the international community does not seem to have come to grips with the scale of the challenge in Afghanistan in the two years since the U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban government. (About 7,000 Canadians took part, and four were lost in a notorious friendly-fire bombing by a U.S. jet.) Getting rid of the Taliban was an essential post-Sept. 11 goal, the regime harbored al-Qaeda terrorists. Yet the promised follow-up to that initial victory has taken the form of a good start. The aid group CARE estimates that at least US\$20 billion is needed in the next four years to begin rebuilding the country. Only a best one-quarter of that has been pledged.

Compiling with Iraq, far attention is a major problem. Washington's latest plan

Protesters carry the casket of Sgt. Robert Moore to funeral services at CFB Trenton

suggest Kabul's needs have been relegated to very much a second-tier priority. Of the US\$8.7 billion that President George W. Bush has asked Congress to approve for military and rebuilding costs in Iraq and Afghanistan, just US\$180 million is earmarked for Afghan reconstruction. "There is a large disconnect," says Asif Rahimi, an Afghan working for CNR's Canadian Overseas. "The world community thinks you can do a chop-ops in Afghanistan and be finished with the business." With the transitional government of President Hamid Karzai aiming to finalize a new constitution this year and hold elections in 2004, more aid is needed—with military support to ensure it can be delivered.

Karza is battling not only for funds, but against the Taliban and others who are willing to kill and work to stop the flow of assistance. "If the roads are getting repaired, if the schools are reopening, that means the process is working and people are going to buy in," Rahimi says. Because of that, he adds, Karza's opponents "are blocking the reconstruction." CARE reports that armed attacks against assistance workers in Afghanistan occur on average a necessary two days.

For Canada, Afghanistan has emerged as a top foreign-policy preoccupation. Along with troops, Ottawa has pledged \$250 million to aid—the largest single-country commitment ever by the Canadian International Development Agency—but just to the extent of Canada's preoccupation after 9/11.

**FOR OTTAWA,**  
Afghanistan has emerged  
as a top foreign-policy  
preoccupation, with \$250  
million in aid pledged

national is unclear, longer-term assistance remains in doubt. Afghanistan's urgent need seems at odds with CIDA's reluctance to concentrating in a select group of countries that have shown a capacity to use aid effectively. The more focused policy made a lot of sense to aid people. But how does Afghanistan, which has so much trouble, fit with the strategy? "Afghans can only hope that Canada, and other rich nations, don't soon grow weary of their enormous problems and turn away."



## 'TREPIDATION'

ADNAN R. KHAN goes on patrol with Canadian troops in the dangerous region outside of Kabul

FROM HIS hilltop ponds overlooking the lush Lalander Valley, Shahwan is prepared for war. Or perhaps, in his mind, the invasion that have swept through the mountains around Kabul have occurred. What does he do? The former mujahideen fighter has enough weaponry stored in his one room, mud brick hut to find off a small but taken. Located at the extreme south western edge of the NATO International Security Assistance Force's current area of operations, Shahwan's stronghold sits as a strategic point—and is a challenge for the Canadian soldiers patrolling the recent countryside around the capital. "We're keeping an eye on him," says Master Cpl. Trevor Uhl, who reports Shahwan's offer to come into his home for a chat.

Uhl and his men are far to Shahwan as "the Taliban guy" because of his weaponry, which includes a few dozen mortar rounds with handsets, a rocketless rifle, and an unlicensed number of Kalashnikovs. There is nothing in his home to link him to the former regime or al-Qaeda, a massive machine

Many of mine and ambushes, soldiers have to keep a steady eye on the surrounding hills. A man and a model helicopter inched out of plastic bottles are the only decorative elements in his sparse dwelling. But the Canadians are uncertain about the former fighter's loyalty, even though he talks like an ally. "Right now, people know I'm here so they don't do anything," says Shahwan, words tumbling out at a forced pace. "They know that if I can stay in Taliban or al-Qaeda, I will have them from a tree."

Shahwan is evasive about the actual presence of Taliban or al-Qaeda fighters in the Lalander Valley, preferring instead to talk about his exploits during the factional fighting of a decade ago. Uhl doesn't know what to make of the demagogue, thick-lipped Afghan. Shahwan's home is surrounded by mud-brick houses, but it's unclear whether he's involved in Afghanistan's drug trade, or is simply a shell-shocked war veteran. But having a potential loose cannon in an area Canadian troops are patrolling isn't



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Some 30 km from the heart of Kabul, the Lalander Valley has a reputation for landmines. Maj. Gen. Andrew Leslie, deputy commander of ISAF and the ranking Canadian officer in Afghanistan, has described the region as "the most dangerous" in Canada's area of operation. On patrol, the soldiers go in singly, down and formations tightly held as they search for landmines and other dangers. "It's a mountain climber's climb and a soldier's nightmare," says Cpl. Ricardo Doyle, scanning the steep mountain slopes above one of the dirt roads running through peach orchards and onion fields. "See that dead-on-the-wall?" he says, pointing to the cliffs. "You'd see nothing but traps all the way down the road from there."

Potential ambush positions dot the ragged cliffs, while the soft dirt of the roads is ideal for landmines. The Taliban made use of Lalander's terrain to lay traps to Kabul in the mid-'80s, for the Canadians, bringing this area under control crucial. But as we move forward, Cpl. Rose-Pothuizen says the level of reconnaissance across the troops has spiked since Oct. 3, when two soldiers were killed and three injured after an anti-tank mine exploded. Adds Pothuizen: "It's scary, you're not sure what you're walking on."



Soldiers inspect the mine where two Canadian soldiers were killed (above), trapped on a reconnaissance mission.

Many "recapitulation."

The two Canadians died on a road leading to Haft Qel, a dry, barren valley running parallel to Lalander. Lt. Col. Mohammad Safa of the Afghan National Army, who is also the area's top strategic importance of the area cannot be understated. He points a group of rolling hills on the northern edge of Haft Qel. "If you control those foothills, you control Kabul. And Lalander is the main access point to Haft Qel."

Over two decades of war, war after war,

of soldiers have swept across Haft Qel's parched floor. Among them were the Soviet army, mujahideen fighters, rival warlords Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Ahmad Shah Massoud, who fought in the early '90s to control the whole country, and finally the Taliban. In war Hekmatyar and Massoud who laid the majority of the anti-tank mines along the dirt roads the Canadians were travelling on. "If someone had spoken to me before coming on here," says Safa. "I would have warned them."

In the loose dirt where the mine that killed the Canadian lay hidden, the crater has been an adjacent of evidence by the mine-clearing activities of Sgt. Rod Soed and his team of engineers. They were the first on the scene, scouring the area for the former Soviet soldiers who followed. A pile of M16s and other gear on the edge of the road is the only remaining sign of the explosion. "This area is full of these types of mines," Safa says, looking westward along the winding road toward Haft Qel and beyond that to Afghanistan's even more lawless regions. "That's where the enemy will come from." he says. "They can place mines here anytime because there is no one patrolling the route. And now that they know an ISAF force was here, they will definitely place more."

**OVER two decades of war, wives of fighters have swept across the area: Soviets, mujahideen, the Taliban**

That's a worrying development for the Canadians. Opening the dirt road is key to securing not only Haft Qel but also Lalander's southwestern passes, which feed it. But, separated from Kabul by the rugged Sarabi Mountains and Haft Qel, and encircled by ISAF's beleaguered parallel, the area Lalander's impoverished residents are far removed from their nation's capital, relief post. The area also showed some barbaric behaviour. "This is the mine," says Pothuizen. "We don't go any further than that."

I decide to leave the Canadian troops, and continue on. Hiking up a dry riverbed, I reach Qasim Qala, a hilltop village not reached by last fall's flood, where Khawaja, a 43-year-old resident, says the area is too poor to be left alone. "We don't care about ISAF," he says. "The one who brings security, we will support him."

Qasim Qala is only now beginning to recover from decades of conflict. Families have begun returning from Pakistan, from war-torn villages, villagers travel on warily at strangers, refusing to talk about the Taliban. "Why are you asking these questions?" an old man asks abruptly. Others simply shrug when asked if any fighters for the former

regime are hiding out in the valley. "We support no one here now," says 37-year-old Noor Mohammad, a farmer. "It's not good to ask these questions. It will only make them angry."

Ma has been only recently returned from Pakistan to join his family on their new farm. He was hoping to find peace, but instead many of the returnees brought with them old grudges. Two of the 13 families

in Qasim Qala are already at each other's throats, involved in a vicious cycle of murder and regional killings. "Who knows when it will end?" says Mohammad. "It's been going on for as long as I can remember." If ISAF's mandate is extended into these dangerous areas, soldiers will have to contend with people resentful of foreigners and ready to spill blood—and perhaps willing to lay their lives down in more familiar hands. ■

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# THE RISK TAKER

Throughout his life, media mogul Izzy Asper confounded expectations

**IZZY ASPER** was not the sort of man who hesitated at those inevitable fork-along-the-road-of-life. He was the kind of guy who barreled right through the stop-signs. Look back over the career of the founder of CanWest Global Communications Corp., who died suddenly at age 71 last week, and the pattern is clear. Nobody deflected him from his course, and in business at least, few obstacles stood in his way for long.

A mercurial quaffing, jazz-loving, chain-smoking, serial-flirting corporate juggernaut, Asper rose from small-town roots to ownership of one of Canada's biggest media empires—a classic tale of scrappy, bootstrapping capitalism. The son of Jewish Ukrainian immigrants who ran the local movie house in Minnedoua, Minn., Asper had a lifelong delight in confounding expectations. After high school, he bucked his parents' wishes and abandoned the family business in favour of law school. Established as one of the country's top law firms, he gave up his practice for a far less successful stint as leader of the provincial Liberal party.

Then came the gamble at the centre of his myth—a quarter-century long, uphill slog to create a third national television network, CanWest Global, which had its roots in a New Dakota TV station that Asper and his then-partners acquired in 1974 and moved back and forth to Winnipeg over a Labour Day weekend, his time given to a multi-national communications gear with offices in New Zealand, Australia and Ireland. In 2000, having finally secured his network ambitions, Asper made what turned out to be his most audacious move, a \$3.2-billion takeover of the much larger Southern newspaper group, giving him and his family an unprecedented slice of the Canadian media pie.

"He had this incredible capacity for risk," recalls Peter Vinet, a longtime friend and associate who stepped aside as president and CEO of CanWest in 1999 to make room



for Asper's younger son, Leonard. "If I say you convinced that he was right, the risk of failure was never as mine. It's that crucial difference that separates true entrepreneurs from the competition." But that very public test for the ear and thrust of business often obscured the deeper qualities of the princeps, says Vinet. "He was a very colloquial guy, and very much a devotee. He

Martin, Stephen Harper, and many of the country's corporate giants. In a city where the family and corporate name gave everything from community centres to ballparks, many paid tribute to Asper's passion for philanthropy, including the project he left unfinished—a museum celebrating human rights.

Listening to the heartfelt tributes and sending the guests in his way and competing newspapers, however, it was easy to forget that Asper was also a figure of controversy. His television stations, which earned big audiences over the years by snatching up rights to such American hits as *The Love Boat*, *Seinfeld* and *Friends*, were often accused of a lukewarm commitment to Canadian programming. And despite the owner's personal affinity for politics, Global, unlike its competitors, has been loath to interrupt its prime-time schedule to cover provincial elections, such as the Dec. 2 Ontario vote.

Asper, famously irritable with regards to coverage of his own business dealings, was at the same time an outspoken critic—in family trait inherited by his son, Leonard and David. Among his favourite targets were

**"HE was the ring leader, but he listened very carefully to everyone's opinion and he was very inspiring in that sense"**

son the ring leader, but he listened very carefully to everyone's opinion and he was very inspiring in that sense."

In fiscal 2006 a blue chip crowd of 1,600 investors in Winnipeg, where Asper, a charismatic westerner, maintained his home and corporate headquarters. Among those in attendance, Jean Chrétien, Paul



Although Asper was officially retired, observers believed he kept his hand on the tiller of CanWest, where his son Leonard did hold a new CEO

the CBC, and what he deemed to be widespread bias in the media's treatment of Israel. But CanWest's efforts to put its stamp on its recently acquired newspapers have not always gone smoothly. The company was forced to make costly write-downs for its major dailies after negative public response, while some of its journalists have lashed at attempts to make their stories conform to the owner's opinions.

Christopher Dorman, director of Canadian University System Inc., says Asper pulled no punches, but he wasn't exactly beating new ground. As the American critic A.J. Liebling long ago observed, freedom of the press belongs to those who own it. "Why do business people buy newspapers? Instead of 'editorial freedom' is the word. 'Print media is one of the last remaining vehicles for serious debate on substantive issues. It attracts people who have serious held opinions. I may fault the Aspers for what they say, but I don't fault them for speaking out."

Although Asper officially retired from his

position as executive chairman of CanWest last January to spend more time with his wife of 47 years, Ibbie, most observers believe his hand remained firmly on the tiller. "I always get the last word in," Leonard joked at the time. "What is, 'Yes, dad. Yes, dad. What ever you say, dad.' " Industry watchers already credit ongoing changes over the next few months in Asper's sons and daughter, Gill, strive to emerge from their father's shadow.

The company's \$3.5 billion debt remains a significant drag on its balance sheet and a constant firestorm. There is already speculation—or in some quarters, whiff of think-arg—that the company may address the issue by shedding overseas assets, or shutting down the perennially money-losing National Post. "I see several sorts of subtle possible changes," says one Canadian analyst, who declined to be named. "I think the company may be perceived as easy to partner with by others now that Izzy is no longer involved. I think it also may not be wedded to

the newspaper strategy as it was under Izzy's reign." But Barbara Kopyayev, an analyst with Standard and Poor's rating service, doubts there will be a significant departure from the plans already in place, especially given the sluggish global market for media properties. "They've done a number of things to improve their financial flexibility," she says. "There's no need to start selling off these assets below their true value."

Leonard Asper is already on the record with his ambitions to grow the company into a top 5 world media player. It's consistent with his late father's vision, says Glenn O'Hare, president of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters and former CanWest employee. "Izy used to dream he himself as a 'pathological Canadian.' He really believed that something good would be born there, it was important for this country to have a strong presence on the international media scene, to promote and assert our values." The boy legend is already in place. Viewers will have to say how far the legacy goes. ■



## BUSH'S LAST CHANCE

Other major economies must perform, or else the President is toast

**AMERICANS**, more than anybody else, are a people who profess the secular faith of free-market capitalism. To a degree that strikes (or appalls) Continental Europeans, Americans of all classes have always rejected politicians who described themselves as socialists. However, Americans are also unremovable by ideological inconsistency. Most expect their president to deliver good economic growth without disproportionately inflation or painful unemployment. Voters support leaders from capitalist rulers such as farm subsidies and

public funding of sports facilities that are shovels for middle-class income made alluring. No winning politician advocates "big government" or "big businessmen," but voters elect those who promise great gifts from a government that will rapidly return on a tight leash.

George W. Bush was elected (fairly) on a program of faster economic growth by cutting taxes and red tape. He has delivered on tax cuts, yet the economy still struggles. Tim, it grew rapidly in the second quarter, but most of the growth came from the tax refund checks Washington mailed after Congress approved Bush's latest tax cuts, and from the near universal refinancing of home mortgages during the second quarter when interest rates reached 40-year lows. There were no self-renewals.

Former Treasury chairman Alan Greenspan has persuaded Bush that the Fed would do whatever necessary to get the economy back on the path to sustained growth. He dropped his base rate to a laughable (or lovable, depending on your viewpoint) one percent. The labor class (most voters) rejoiced and spent recklessly, heavily, creating an unopposed merchandise, in the retail trade of the long hope-breaking records. The asset class (mostly the middle-aged and the retired) despaired as it watched its income from money-market funds and bank deposits plumb unthinkable depths.

Well, the man from Crawford, Tex., has lived just about all his battles. The economic consensus is strongly bullish and says he doesn't need any more. I am inclined to go along, but I worry about the problems that I fear are beyond any American govern-

ment's ability. The globally technology-driven and crash has wiped out trillions of dollars of America's badly needed savings and left the economy reeling under massive over-investment in tech stock. Since the economists never warned Americans about the dangers of Nasdaq's run up, they won't talk about the longer-range destructive aspects.

The nation's own deficit (budgetary and trade) now runs at nearly 30 percent of GDP. The trade deficit is the bigger and more dangerous. The Bushes' only policies to trade include a free-trade agreement with a "flexible exchange rate policy" on the U.S. dollar—a code phrase for devaluing the greenback. Nobody believes these policies will stop the shadowing of American factories or the migration of white-collar jobs to Asia via the Internet.

**THE U.S., which has the most open markets in the world, has been propping up flaccid economies abroad since 1995. It can no longer afford such unilateralism.**

The Bushes are right to plead with Japan, Germany and France upon their economic recovery, so as to take the pressure off the American economy. The U.S., which has the most open markets in the world, has been propping up flaccid economies abroad since 1995. It can no longer afford such economic unilateralism.

Actually, there is some good news abroad. France is practicing its own unilateralism, defying the EU's strong-headed deficit rules that it and Germany expected on their small or coming "partners" at the time of the Maastricht Treaty. But France is not view-

ing at about 35-hour a week labor law, or any of the rest of its generosity of economic controls. Meanwhile, Germany is finally confronting the economic burden imposed by its overgenerous state pension program.

The big news for the world comes from Japan, where Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi actually proved he was financial reformer. Tokyo has seen its dividends. The Japanese economy is rising from its torpor, and this rise in national strategy is focusing as China, not on the U.S. consumer. In the long run, that will take pressure off the U.S.

But Bush doesn't have the luxury of a long-run rest for the Japanese economy. His mandate expires in just over a year, and these same voters who risk his presidency expect him to deliver jobs and growth. Or else they'll choose those whom they can deliver both—while abolishing the fiscal deficit. Such claims are sheer demagoguery—no American can solve the economic problems of the world. Nor is the poisonous political rhetoric helping voters to make intelligent appraisals. For example, all the railing about the rate of rebuilding Iraq (\$55.26 billion) ignores the reality that the trade deficit hardly exceeded that number in just two weeks. And the trade deficit means displacing American jobs. In contrast, more than half of the 3.3 percent U.S. GDP growth in the second quarter came from an

unusual Pentagon spending—which created thousands of American jobs. That doesn't mean Iraq was good news for Bush or America, but it certainly isn't a big deal for a \$551.1-billion-run money.

Bush never lived with the voters that what the U.S. economy needs is to get off the leading economies to free functioning, which half as effectively as America because Ronald Reagan was elected. If they don't, he's toast.

Donald Cook is chairman of New Investment Management in Chicago and of Investor Board, New York University. [donald@cookinvest.com](mailto:donald@cookinvest.com)



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## RESTORING FALLEN KINGS

Paul Martin's first test will be replacing obsolete but costly helicopters



**OCCASIONALLY OUR** National Government Party goes haywire. Some issues and policies are so far beyond it that its leaders issue a carrying order to their own federal pigs, then provide the muscles to fight them.

That is an overly generous summary of how Jean Charest has handled the replacement of Canada's decommissioned helicopters. The ticket is that Paul Martin's first test as the nation's ageing dilemma. It will be his first hard leadership test. The issue is not whether to

replace these flying coffins, better known as Sea Kings. That was decided 16 years ago. The question is, should we go for the cheapest model, or the best value? Fed up beyond endurance by all the political dilly-dallying, the military at this point just wants something, anything that will lift off, drop in, and crash. And it needs it yesterday.

But the time is much more complicated than that, and the Prime Minister's free dragging for a decade a vintage Clinton. He made the mistake of cancelling the original contract, simply because it would be a

very government, and had done it to replace the damage. These events are worth recording because future historians will debate that anyone could be that sure and still get his right notion on the right hand.

The original Sea Kings were delivered in 1963, which happened to be the year Clinton was first elected to the Commons. Few could have guessed that the laptop and the

And the best value is the best price? (Visible, Sea Kings keep crashing.)

politics would be equally difficult to replace.

In 1982 the Mulroney government agreed to replace the nearly 25-year-old, obsolete army as well as the equally old Lockheed search and rescue helicopters. Following a straightforward competitive process, it chose 50 EH-101 multi-purpose laptops from a British Indian manufacturer. But in the 1995 election campaign, Clinton promised to cancel the \$4.3-billion contract because he claimed it was too rich for Ottawa's budget—and did so so his fire-and-axe-of-business after winning office. That costed \$400 million, which Ottawa had to pay under a contract cancellation penalty clause.

In 1996, the government opened up bidding again, this time leaving itself no 15 search and rescue units. The politically new and complete new procurement process awarded the contract to the same manufacturer

that Mulroney had chosen. This time Clinton over the edge. Furious with the military bureaucracy for making him look petty, he launched a series of discreditable delaying tactics before reluctantly recognizing the relatively small contract. But he would not spend contracts for 28 new military helicopters.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's nephew, Raymond Charbonneau, then ambassador to France, was thought to have requested an informal commitment to buy helicopters from a French-led consortium, operating in partnership with Lockheed Martin Canada. Their NH-90 chopper is considerably cheaper, but not exactly as flexible or as battle-ready or, some claim, safe as the competing models. Ottawa is awash with stories that Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac have an understanding that the French firm will be awarded the Sea King replacement sale.

To make this purchase more flexible, the PM ordered the contract split into two parts: one for the aircraft and the other, opening it up to Canadian firms, for the mission systems required to equip it. According to annual 2002 estimates, this added another \$400 million to the laptop's cost.

While because measure of national defence largely, John McCallum recognized the folly of this unnecessary expense, and confirmed the bidding process once a single tender. Besides, his boss of having already apologized for a string of verbal gaffes has significantly reduced his influence. But he has got used to strong allies. Deputy Prime Minister John Manley and Andrew Gordon, while Fraser, who have roots down firmly on the side of buying the best, instead of the cheapest. About to become prime minister Paul Martin has also come out squarely for full quality: "I want the very, very best intelligence for our troops. Period."

The "best value" against "best price" debate continues, and the Sea Kings keep



**SURELY** We owe the brave, if not foolishly, Sea King pilots the best of their successor aircraft is the best, meaning safest, machine money can buy

crashing. Today's estimated \$3.1-billion order is not only the largest single purchase in Ottawa's defence equipment shopping list, but the decision has long-term implications. It impacts will be felt for at least another 25 years, the predicted life cycle of the new units. At the moment, it risks 30 hours of maintenance to keep a Sea King in the air for one hour. Nobody is counting the number of rolls of duct tape used to keep those jammed emergency lighting, 100 wires in Canada's defence contract, 100 feet on the duct tape flycatcher, instead of bolting with the flying metal of the procurement process.

Surely the best we owe the brave, if not foolishly, pilots who risk their lives jacking the pathetic remnants of the Sea King fleet, this much that their successor aircraft is the best (meaning safest) and cheap money can buy. Politics should not

be allowed to poison the process. 2003 bureaucrats, who are now willing to settle for any replacement helicopter, fear that their delays will jeopardize the entire project. They're asking McCallum that they study in specific events (which might foster one of the non-French companies) would still the decision for years. My Ottawa sources flatly deny that claim, they swear the search can be made within three months or less. But even these reform-minded functionaries hardly own the title of being Speedy Government. They figure the total of bidding and contract negotiations would take at least another eight months, so that the deal would be signed until November 2004. That would surely start the process. The best guess for the actual delivery of the operational fleet to replace the Sea King fleet in 2002, a quarter century after the replacement process was launched.

In fact, nothing may happen. The other companies competing for the contract AgustaWestland, makers of the EH-101, now nationalized Conquest and Stratford, Conn.-based Sikorsky have quietly served notice that if they lose to the French, they will launch criminal claims, based on charges of bid rigging and political interference. That could delay the decision indefinitely.

Cautious, national defence is taking no chances. Last May, a quietly given \$306-million maintenance contract with 1 M P Group International Inc. of Halifax that could keep the Sea Kings more or less operational for another 11 years. By then, it imagines only one of the defunct whistlers will actually be able to stay in the air for more than 20 minutes. It will have been assembled with parts contributed from the remaining Sea Kings, whose skeletons will be found in various museums as historic artifacts of the Canadian era.

Peter C. Newman's column appears monthly. Previous articles on the

# WEST COAST RENAISSANCE



Hereditary chief James is adorned by the craftsmanship with which his people's regalia were plundered

The people of Haida Gwaii are reclaiming their past and fighting to control their future, writes KEN MACQUEEN

**FOR LONG MONTHS** Andy Wilson and a floating band of helpers have laboured over a commission of his own design. Usually they work on the front deck of his house in the Haida village of Skidegate on Haida Gwaii, the Queen Charlotte Islands, drawing the curiosity of passersby. A proper burner heats an ancient beer keg filled with water. Pipes funnel from the top of the keg steam yet another order plate, prettily scored in three places. In 20 minutes—no more, no less—the order is pliable enough to fold into that marvel of West Coast Indian art and utility, the bentwood box.

The people of Haida Gwaii, as the traditional inhabitants of the Canadian archipelago tucked below the Alaskan panhandle, have used such richly decorated containers for uncounted centuries. There are few stories in the Haida house, making them ideal for storing food or water, so they were used in the past. Such houses are still useful for the remains of the dead. This is the task that motivates Wilson on this fine fall day. The soft-spoken cultural anthropologist and his pal Terry Williams, an artist and rock musician, were finishing the last hours needed before a Haida delegation left for Chicago on Oct. 16 to recover the bones of 150 of the innumerable ancestors whose remains were plundered from the islands at the turn of the previous century.

Wilson, among a delegation of 30 Haida, will spend this week at Chicago's imposing Field Museum, preparing the remains for their return and burial in the ceremonies at the Haida reserve village of Skidegate and Old Masset. Members of the Haida repatriation





Man, Nature and Aboriginals may  
re-appraise to protect the area's resources

Wilson smiles, wrapping up the words into questions he's heard before from on-flight carriers and customs agents. "You're bringing back what?" The inevitable follow-up question is, why were they taken. "And," he adds, "we can't answer that."

son. His single Hindu name means drums, and he is indeed a drummer, a dancer, and a gifted carver and former protégé of the late Bill Hild. As an ex-warrior, he helped chase logging off the homestead of South Morelos Island in the 1970s, leading to the creation of the Guila Guitza National Park Reserve and Hinda's Heneque bar. The site is jointly run by the Hinda and Parla Cautins, the local office management Guapeque uses as a model for the future administration of the atlands. "The concept are interesting," says his friend Luis Lora, the non-Native mayor of the logging village of Port Clemente. "He has to show more places than any one person should have them."

Provincial tourism marketers refer to the Charlotte having "nurtured the Haida culture for more than 10,000 years." The

Halda elders insisted the sacred forebe left where it fell, to return to the earth. It remains there today, a few of its greyag branches having in the still, below-flow. K.J.

a tall fence connects the five little towers



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Societies | »

province's statement of defence in the title case, though, reads: "Bethel Colum has does not admit the existence of the Haida Nation!" That one legal sentence negates much of what Guizawa holds dear: the crumbling totems, the ancient tales of ancestry, the old stories of myth and history passed on from parents and grandparents.

The province also denies the Haida Aboriginal people "abandoned the area they occupied." It neglects, though, to add the reason why: the epidemics of white-bone smallpox raging in the mid-1800s. Many graves were dug, burials were banned, bodies were dumped at sea because there weren't enough survivors to bury the dead. When the last bones are recovered from the world's museums, Wilson has promised, there'll be a final end-of-mourning ceremony for those

**WHEN** the last bones are recovered from the world's museums, there will be a final end-of-mourning ceremony

troubled spirits, too. Guizawa considers them victims of germ warfare. Colonization wasn't possible, he says, "unless they wiped us out in that kind of way. That's part of our case in court: that kind of warfare isn't legitimate." Atliachonachuk, he has a visitor with a story. Not trying to soil anything, just sitting what he sees as fact. "Our people, without question, will win this case."

Many on the island are inclined to agree. They cite a B.C. Court of Appeal ruling, last year that effectively forced American logging giant Weyerhaeuser Co., holder of the largest logging licence on the island, to consult and accommodate the Haida in advance of every set of felling. The ruling, under appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, caused the company to reduce its cut. Notably, the pulpier based the ruling on "a reasonable probability" of the Haida eventually winning title to parts of Haida Gwaii.

From her cosy home in Port Clements, Betty Dabell, the 84-year-old daughter of pioneering white settler, has watched "barges load after barge load" of logs creak off the island for processing elsewhere, leaving little behind but stumps. She remembers those booming mills at her village alone. "What do I think if they take away," she says of the Haida. "I couldn't care less. Black, white, pink or blue, you're going to get good guys and bad guys." Dabell has written three histories of the island and helped establish the village's

excellent museum on the Chedoke's industrial past. The advantage of the Haida over outside interests, she says, "is they're here. They have a concern for what's going to go on down the road."

Perhaps the best indicator of the shifting balance of power is the unlikely alliance formed last year between the Haida and most of the island's loggers. The association was driven by concerns that Weyerhaeuser, with the province's sanction, was cutting at unsustainable levels. Siding with the Haida was a matter of self-interest, says Lore, a logging-mill builder and 38-year resident of the Charlton: the Haida are best able to

defend the island's long-term interests. Lore subsequently was elected mayor of Port Clements on a platform of greater mutual cooperation with the Haida—a vote, he says with a gleam, that shows discredited the village's reputation as a no-holds-barred.

Where that relationship leads, Lore doesn't pretend to know. It's troubled by two unsolved issues. "We still must have confirmation that, with the strength the Haida have in their court position, they will share power. This isn't easy to say." And, on the island's continuing control of the resources while there's still enough left for the local economy? Of one thing he's certain: "If we don't work something out with the Haida, I don't see any future here for any children."

**THE BENTWOOD** bones, as Andy Wilson knows, are as much for the living as the dead, as much for the future as the past. The ancestors offer a heavy lesson. Elementary students at Skegway and Old Masset send the black and red Haida carved with buttons that will be used to wrap the bones. High school students in Haida villages painted many of the bones where these bones will be placed.

He takes a long cedar plank from the river rack and sets it on his back, straining to make three quick folds. The cedar bends without breaking, a minor Haida miracle. Flexibility can be learned from the most unlikely objects. It's a matter of preparation, Wilson says, and just the right amount of pressure. In these tumultuous times on Haida Gwaii, maybe there's a lesson there, too.

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# A SAINT FROM THE STREETS

In Mother Teresa, the Pope believes he has found his model Christian

**THIS WEEK**, Pope John Paul II will celebrate his 25th anniversary as pontiff. If he is well enough, the 83-year-old Pope, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease and, reportedly, stomach cancer, will host a special assembly of prelates at the Vatican, including cardinals and the presidents of national episcopal conferences. The themes of non-violence, peace, the priesthood and the role of the Successor of Peter (one of the Pope's many titles) will be discussed. There will also be public mass and a concert. But, perhaps most importantly, the pontiff will announce the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the "Saint of the Ganges," with whom he shared a deep spiritual communion.

Mother Teresa (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu,

who died in 1997, was born in Macedonia in 1910 to Albanian parents. At 18, she left home to join a community of Irish nuns and within months was sent to Calcutta. There, she took the name Sister Teresa, after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun. In 1948, Mother Teresa joined the Missionaries of Charity to work with the city's destitute, and became known internationally as a symbol of benevolence. Catholics and non-Catholics worldwide have seen in the divine-like Altruism the face of Christ in our time.

Mother Teresa has been attacked by those who see in her missionary an unbridled proselytizing agenda that encourages resignation to unjust political and social systems. In his 1997 book *The Missionary Position*, Irish-born journalist Christopher Hitchens argued that her success depended "on the exploitation of the simple and the humble by

the cunning and single-minded." But Hitchens' view is a lonely one. For John Paul, and millions of others, Mother Teresa represents the radical simplicity of the gospel. She was, in the pontiff's words, "an extraordinary gift for the Church and the world. In Mother Teresa's smile, words and deeds, Jesus again walked the streets of the world in the good Samaritan." The beatification of Mother Teresa is the step before canonization, or full sainthood, the Pope believes the merits that, and he believes he will be the one to add her to the canon.

The Pope waived the standard five-year waiting period between the time of her death and the introduction of the "cause," or case, for canonization. And that has contributed

often made clear the absence of clerical involvement in political matters. Mother Teresa was manifestly apolitical. Social policy issues and political reforms were not her brief. Alleviating the suffering of God's children was John Paul's duty, not her worry about any overt or subtle politicization of her ministry. There was none.

Mother Teresa radiated hope in the darkest of circumstances. Her ministry brought her face to face with the crushing weight of pain and misery, and yet she regularly saw joy beneath suffering and hope where others saw only despair. Likewise, the Pope, who grew in maturity in Poland under the shadow of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps and witnessed severe persecution

first-hand, could only despair of humanity. But he has not. He sees in Mother Teresa a companion in hope.

Perhaps more important is the mystical link they shared through the Blessed Virgin Mary. John Paul is a quite clear about the Marian thread running through his own life. His motto *totus tuus* (totally yours) is taken from a book about Mary that he read while working as a youth at a chemical plant in Poland. His encyclical *Redemptoris mater* discusses the role of Mary in the Church, and the Pope has said elsewhere that his office takes its funds from the devotion of Mary's faithful to God and in the special significance attached to Marian apparitions, visions and gifts.

When he was shot on May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square by Mehmet Ali Agca, it was in the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, a



The pontiff and Mother Teresa were linked by a strong spiritual bond to the Virgin Mary

his life on that day of infamy.

Mother Teresa attributed her religious vocation directly to the incarnation of Mary, to whom she prayed for guidance. And when she founded the Missionaries of Charity, the simple white sari that became their habit (form of religious dress) had a blue border, symbolizing Mother Teresa's determination to imitate Mary, who is often depicted in white, for her virginity, and blue.

In the end, John Paul saw in Mother Teresa a model of the ideal Christian. She was devoted to the Church, unquestioning in her submission to authority, and fully concentrated on the unending demands of love. Throughout her life she remained totally indifferent to ecclesiastical and secular politics. A careful reading of her diaries and personal letters reveals that she knew every "dark night of the soul" and was anything but Pollyannaish, yet she remained suffused with joy and hope in all the life.

The Pope's focus on Mother Teresa's life is not without controversy. Many Catholic feminists believe he has explained her subordination to the Church, and her traditional views on the nature of women and the particular roles women should exercise in society (she was adamantly opposed to the ordination of women.) But each criterion will at last tangibly be set aside as he beatifies his model pilgrim, his personal companion on the way, his good Samaritan for our time.

Michael W. Higgins is president of St. Anselm's University in Waterville, Ore.

celebration marking the anniversary of the date when Mary appeared in 1917 and spoke to three children near that Portuguese town. The Pope later concluded that "a

motherly hand guided the leader's path, making the dying pope to halt at the threshold of death." In other words, he believes that Mary's intercession preserved



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ROGERS



## FLIPPED OUT ON FORMULA

Performances shine in three movies that rejuvenate vintage styles

**INTOLERABLE CRUELTY** is being sold as an old-fashioned screwball comedy punning on two of Hollywood's most glamorous stars. But it doesn't take long before we realize that's a waste of time, really. Our first clue is the opening scene, in which a soap-opera producer (Geoffrey Rush) catches his wife bonking the pool man (they have no pool) and gets stabbed in the back with his daytime TV lifetime achievement award. By the time we get some action in the desert—where the lawyer orders “baby field practice” and the attorneys,

“Who did you call next?”—we’re wondering just what kind of movie we’re watching.

*Intolerable Cruelty* is the latest offering from Joel and Ethan Coen. But for the brothers who gave us *Mean Streets*, *Raising Arizona*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, it marks a departure, firing our way to Day-Glo Fun. This is the first Coen brothers film based on several lead material—except that Universal head them to depict, as he yells again. And you can still see the broad bones of Hollywood formula behind the Coen’s ignorance much. The movie’s main thrust is a war-of-the-wits comedy that parodies classic lawyer Miles Marmorek (George Clooney) on the ring with his gold-digger Marilyn Rostker (Catherine Keener). But the Coens are constantly poking up the screwball delivery with failure, knowledge and the occasional wild-goose chase that keeps going over the top.

There are a lot of laughs, even if some of the best are gratuitous, such as a “What’s on fire?” reveal of a room-temperature reporter in a happier playing bridge over *Intolerable Cruelty* in a Las Vegas wedding chapel. And Billy Bob Thornton almost steals the movie as a silver-tongued oil tycoon.

At the hub of this comic center of gravity, Clooney and Keener display immaculate poise. As a suave shark who’s bored with being at the top of his game (and in love with his wife), Clooney plays a refined version of his *Gladiator* role, an understated wit with an exaggerated sense of his own intelligence—a man trading that fine line between clever and stupid. He’s a debonair square who’s slightly off-kilter, and Clooney roasts off comic pressure with a director’s timing. No one looks more like a classic leading man, and finally he gets to act the part. Zero Jones makes a perfect match, age-

ing hard by the company, and John Cassisi as a jury member who often to tell the ver-  
dict in the highest bidder—with his lower (Blackie Wood) breaking the deal.

The movie is all superb in this ingenious hybrid of best movie and courtroom drama. But it never breaks free of other formula. Directed by Cory Forder, *Amateur* (very) keeps up a gripping courtroom as long as the judge is in play. But after the rest and the payoff, I felt strangely dissatisfied, as the characters’ moral ambiguity gave way to the simplistic ethos of Hollywood justice.

*Veronica Guerin* is a thriller with a tragic ending that comes as no surprise. Kate

Blanchett stars in this true story of a hero-

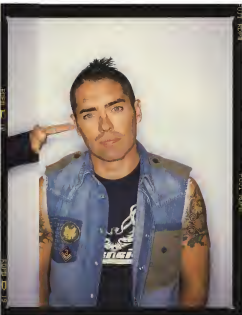
ic Dublin crime reporter who was murdered by gangsters in 1996. The screen plays her as a brave idealist with nerve, a sense of humor and a job to do. She isn’t as Oscar-worthy performance, but the film’s director John Dahl (who’s been in the

company that made the gangster film *Veronica Guerin* in 1996. The screen plays her as a brave idealist with nerve, a sense of humor and a job to do. She isn’t as Oscar-worthy performance, but the film’s director John Dahl (who’s been in the



Between their liquid bromance, Clooney and Keener create real chemistry





**TORONTO IS IN RUINS** Inside a cramped bus, on pavement littered with rubble, five soldiers are backed up against an army truck and under fire, looking like extras in *Apocalypse Now*. They're being bombarded by fake machine bullets—chunks of painted Styrofoam a film crew is throwing at them as they pretend to react to a six-story-tall chimpanzee that's climbing the CN Tower. For the Barenaked Ladies, it's another day of making sure of business. They're shooting a music video outside a sound stage in Scarborough, the Toronto suburb where the band first formed 15 years ago. The scenario is *Kill Bill* *kill Bill*, but to see those jokers enacting like B movie badmen, I can't help thinking of John Lennon playing a surreal soldier in *Now I Won the War*.

The video is being shot to promote *Another Postcard*, the first single from BNL's new CD, *Everything in Its Way*. Like the band's 1990 breakout hit, *One Week*, it's nonsense rap, but instead of singing "Chickadee China the Chinese drinkers," Ed Robertson is rhymin' about postcards of chimpanzees.

Some things in nature  
Some things in nature  
Some things in nature  
Some things in nature  
I've got some shared things, that's things  
I've got some shared things, that's things  
I've got some shared things, that's things  
I've got some shared things, that's things

It's the one terribly goofy tune on an album that also includes a meditation on suicide (*War on Drugs*), a key direction of madness (*Calabria*), and a soul-searching plea from Robertson, asking whether he'd still be heard if he "shed the song" (*Living Is a Lie*). The Barenaked Ladies aren't going to dispel their image as a novelty act by choosing a Dr. Seuss chimp refrain as their single. But the decision wasn't their to make. "I originally thought it wasn't the right choice," concedes Steven Page, explaining that the label gets to pick the sin-

Page (left), Robertson: the Lennon/McCartney or Bert/Ernie of our most successful band

# Barenaked**brains**

The Ladies' new release has their signature bouncy sound, but the lyrics reflect a darker intelligence

gins. "But whenever the label feels good about, great. I love the fact that it's reassurance. That way everybody here's now successful, here's a success. That's what music is about for me. People come in as line for entertainment, don't they? People go out for their stuff."

Other stuff? Well, you killed the downer series and came along, the Burnsville Ladies are Canada's most serious band—a quartet of seriously good musicians with serious questions about sex, fame, social justice and their own success. We have them coming out of our ears—Colleen, Sharon, Sarah, Alana, Nelly, Nelly—but BML as a band, a cohesive gang of wise guys who seem determined to prove that the harmonic chain of opportunity isn't just passed by the Serfs is not dead. They may not have taken the world by storm, but with sales of 12 million records, they're also Canadian music's most successful band. With live sweet but heavy pop, and their flange of the North image, they're locked the rock star mold. They're self-officious celebrities, men lady who devote their spare interest to doing drugs and models, but to their families, and local causes such as promoting world peace and reducing the NDP. They're to Canadian's heart.

The dance rock 'n' roll band is a rock band that's not a band. It's 12 years after first becoming an On the radio music camp, local singers, Page and Robertson—BML's lead singer & McCartney—will surely be like each other. "I think I'm probably Lennon," says Page, 32, "because I tend to be misanthropic. He's more misanthropic in a way. And he had the big hair." Both men agree the Beatles' legacy goes only so far, and suggest they're really more like Bruce and Jerry of Sunset Street. "Everyone wants to be Bruce," says Page. "But I know I'm Jerry." In the misanthropic, bitter, jaded guy?

When these guys talk about their band, it's around the same group of friends. In 1998, they at BML was about to be the big time, "we had a major power, this great driving energy," recalls Robertson, 32. "We forced ourselves to come out our relationship. We all needed our own. We all needed support from each other." They're having a "big blowout" re-

cently web drummer Tyler Stewart. "But we came in the next day and it was fine."

The Ladies have always splashing together every five years, even though Page and Robertson have radically composed most of the music. With Everything to Everyone, they've thrown that creative process open for the first time. Six of the album's 14 cuts were written by bassist Jan Cogan as keyboard player Kevin Harris. "The collaboration is a contrast," says Page, "but it also became difficult. It's very democratic, to everybody

Behind the artists, Robertson, Stewart, Page, Harris and Cogan are super-musicians



to come every year, and everybody wins." Page is the band's most engaged activist, as "social and political engagement," according to Robertson. And the weight of world politics can be felt between the lines of Everything to Everyone. "We wrote a lot of the songs while we were watching Colin Powell trying to make a sales pitch to the UN in February," says Page, "just thinking about how we as Canadians fit into the world, and how we are, and as employees of Time Warner, it was the world." Then, while they were recording in Los Angeles, the Iraq war was in progress. "It was a really weird time,"

says Robertson. "Through the ramping up of the war, the media really ranted on celebrity. All these polls on CNN—do you want to celebrate this? No, you can't have this celebration! That's why you have a television. You can't have this, what they do, what they put in their hair. Any you going to let us now because they're against the war you can't care what they think?"

You'd never know it, but a number of the songs on Everything to Everyone were potentially controversial. Next Time began with Cogan trying to write a song about the U.S. summer who bombed the Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. "The lyrics were well-intentioned but heavy-handed," says Page.

"So we combined that idea with the sentiment of 'look, this is what happens when you push yourself away from the people who matter to you.' It's saying, if you make a really bad mistake, then you can't use that chance."

When they make a lot of every day you never had to choose between the people who matter to you and the people who matter to you. You can always get it right next time.

The hard decisions that they have to make when they make a lot of every day you never had to choose between the people who matter to you and the people who matter to you. You can always get it right next time.

From George Bush to the address of the U.S. that the best thing you can do is start doing. "The song is a long journey to come to a point. Everything will change he'll right? When we go shopping. And if you didn't know better, you might be the only. That's the trouble with being a musician in America. It's like watching a parade. And BML being a musician in such a bright, clear, self-good music that we could get the wrong impression. While seeing the U.S. during the 2000 presidential race, Page recalls, "I realized how many of our fans just assumed I was a Republican—it's hard to tell a Republican from a Democrat, frankly. A 22-year-old kid could be either. They assume I'm just like them, a regular guy, and that's kind of our image. We're regular guys. But I can't allow that to happen any more."

Such confusion is part of what page will go to next working with the NDP's Jack Layton. Last fall, when Layton was campaigning for the party leadership, Page

addressed BML in a benefit concert. He also works with the WWF (formerly known as the World Wildlife Fund), and with World Peace, which he owns a word machine on the Toronto waterfront. "It can't help but see how energy and violence are so related. It's all stuff people fight and kill for. It's what rules the world."

During the Iraq war, Page says, he immersed himself in '60s protest music, from Pete Seeger to Phil Ochs, "but that's not what I wrote—I was about emotion, about dislocation and alienation. There are echoes of a lost America in Sunset Street, a Pokey the anarchist that takes us to join 'the chorus of the oppressed,'" as Page says (singing in an ear). "Then it's down to us, when you cross your heart and trust your heart." But he exploded after touring in 1998 on Drugs, a world-weary ballad that asks how dull life would be without demons to keep on company—and draws an example from a bridge in his own backyard.

Where people jump when they're out of luck. Running down the street and back to back. They're put a net there to catch their fall. Let's that'll stop anyone at all.

What's unique about the Burnsville Ladies is how they've remained stubbornly rooted in their community, and apparently unbothered by celebrity. They are among the world's least flamboyant rock acts. "Because of our modesty," says Page, "people don't take us as recent successes. So when you want people to know us, you at the record company or in the media, they won't. They think, 'Ah, those guys will do anything, they're just guys.' And I know how if people assume we're blander than we actually are. But we're not going to go out and start partying with Lenny Baker to change that."

Robertson, with his success in mind, looks more like a rock star than Page. But he says he's never touched alcohol—from first following in the footsteps of his alcoholic father—and he's smoked just two joints in his life. "Both were with Willie Nelson as his tour bus," he laughs, recalling a Farm Aid gig in 1999. "He's got a real hero. And I think he's a real hero. From the moment he wakes up to the moment he goes to bed. There was an accident on the bus that must have had \$1,200 worth of part burned out on it." When Nelson offered him a ride, Robertson declined at first, then thought,

"Would I rather look back 40 years from now and say I never smoked a joint, or say I smoked a joint with Willie Nelson?"

Stoned for the first time in his life, Robertson went out to the audience with his wife to watch Crosby, Hill, Nash and Young. "I think I got pretty high," he says. "Tigger Gore wanted us to come over and dance. It was the most surreal experience. I smoked

**'WOULD I rather look back,' says Robertson, 'and say I never smoked a joint, or say I smoked a joint with Willie Nelson?'**

a joint and danced with Tigger Gore at a gig of Secret Service agents—I wonder if they knew I'm high!"

Page, like Robertson, has three children and a house in Toronto's leafy Riverside neighborhood. And he's more comfortable in the city than in the VIP lounge of Los Angeles. "I can't imagine living anywhere else," he says, noting that Canada,

especially in Toronto, tends to be passive aggressive toward their celebrities. "They have this attitude," says Page, "where they're like, 'Look, I see you walking into Book City, you think you're so famous, going to buy books.' No, I really am buying books. People go out of their way to not recognize you, so you can really just exist and do your grocery shopping and sell at your local."

If there is such a thing as the Canadian dream, the Burnsville Ladies could be its poster boys. The kids who sang My Mad 32, 500, 500 are now in Vancouver (but in Canadian dollars, Robertson points out). They've paid their dues, building an American fan base with incessant touring. They've earned the leadership that took them out of action for a year. Now, with Canada's recession, they're wondering how they can be everything to everyone—and slinging sometimes it's better to be second best. The cover of their new CD is a mock caricature portrait of the band in profile, wearing a white flag and making into the future. For the Burnsville Ladies, surrender has become a winning formula. □



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## NEUROSURGICAL NAUSEA

It feels indescribably horrible when a human life is slipping away

**ANOTHER WEEKEND** on call meant unexpectedly Toronto Western Hospital, where I'm a neurosurgeon, is a regional referral centre, so I got a seemingly endless stream of calls about cases at other hospitals. As well, I had to perform a number of surgeries. Then, late on the Sunday evening, another call came, this time from the neurosurgical resident in the emergency room. A 70-year-old man had been brought to the ER just near their house, apparently the victim of an assault. He had a deep cut on his head, was very

giddy as possible. Periscope closed scalp would help watch the flow of blood. We had to leave the bone flap out because the brain had new swelling well above the edges of the skull.

The patient's blood pressure was barely registering when the resident put the head dressing on and we wheeled him to the intensive care unit. I told his oldest daughter, the spokesperson for the family, what had happened and that it was possible her father would not survive the day. She was shocked and upset but thanked us with the reassurance that she was sure we had done everything we could.

It was 4:30 a.m. I was dazed, tired, shocked, nervous, and was profoundly shaken and depressed by what had happened. It wasn't our fault, but that didn't matter. The feeling of being there while someone's life is slipping away is something you can never make any one else understand.

After a few minutes of sitting in stunned silence in the ICU, I walked to the patient's bedside with my head hung low, avoiding everyone's gaze. To my amazement he was waking up and moving both arms and legs. His blood pressure was stable. A CT scan showed that the blood clot had been successfully removed and no new ones had formed. The patients were on to make a good recovery.

The resident later described it as "horrible relief" and a defining moment in his career and his life. When he is a practicing neurosurgeon in another city at 40 years, and we bump into each other at a conference, we will likely agree that night's events. We had been part of something indescribable and powerful together.

A few months later, at a recall the experience to write about it, I am still overcome with tears.

Mark Benston is a Toronto neurosurgeon in constant development of his craft.

drowsy and vomiting profusely. A CT scan showed bleeding inside the brain and in the space between the brain and skull.

Life-saving surgery was needed. I told the family how serious it was and they embraced me. Godspeed. The operating room was quickly set up, the patient anaesthetized, and my residents and I cut into his head. We performed a large scalp flap, lifted the skull behind the eye and above the ear. We used an operating room to remove a piece of bone the size of a chess. The healthy covering of the brain, the dura, was torn and discolored blue from the blood bulging inside her skull.

We opened the dura and saw a large pinkish red area of acute intracerebral bleed. We removed it, exposing the badly bruised brain. We then cut into the frontal lobe to remove a large blood clot. The CT scan had showed there. Everything was going well and we had been fast, too—it was only about 1:15 a.m.

Then we noticed a steady trickle of blood running down the surgical drapes and puddling on the floor. The anaesthetist told us the patient's blood pressure was dropping rapidly, and she gave him a blood transfusion. The resident and I continued with the surgery with special coagulating forceps and placed synthetic materials designed to promote clotting where the coagulation technique failed. Still the blood was pouring from everywhere like water off a roof in a rainstorm. The patient's heart began to irregularly. The resident and I panicked nervously, but then the crucial reality hit us: the patient had developed an arteriovenous blood-clotting disorder called dural arteriovenous malformation.

coagulation. It can be caused by a number of conditions, severe head injury among them. With this disorder, the blood knows it's okay to clot so that thousands of tiny capillaries and capillaries in the brain leak blood. In this case, even his brain was leaking.

The man, who was very ill before surgery but potentially could be well, was likely going to die right there in the operating room. I started to sweat from my pores and was overcome with nausea. My throat was so dry I couldn't swallow. Filled with horror, I had that sinking feeling that things were not going to be alright. Even in neurosurgery, it is more to take a patient on the table. I wished I had been a truck driver



wounded of a brain surgeon.

The nurses were running around for blood products from the blood bank and for various things we surgeons needed. The anaesthetist and his residents were also a blur of activity. I heard myself saying to my residents, "I think God wants this chap and I think he's going to get him today." He nodded, his eyes wide with fear, but he was too weak to speak. Drawing on my experience, we decided to put two big drainage tubes in and close it

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## Q&A | Throwing his hat in another ring

Mick Foley is used to getting the spotlight beat out of him. So the former pro wrestler—known in the ring as *Mankind*—has been pleasantly surprised by the critical response to his first novel, *Tipton Brown*, about a 17-year-old web-savvy troubled past. (Foley previously authored two best-selling works of non-fiction.) The 38-year-old New Yorker spoke with *Maxwell's* Bookender Reporter John Inhofe about his career change.

**HOW DID WRITING PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE AS AN AUTHOR?**

Let's face it, wrestling is far from a completely non-fictional world. As a wrestler you're constantly telling stories. Sooner or later the ring is about getting that crowd about the character you portray. Writing isn't all that different.

**THIS BOOK DEALS WITH SOME TOUGHY ISSUES, INCLUDING ABUSE. IS ANY OF IT INSPIRED BY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE?**

Most of the weird things that happen to this kid famously didn't happen to me. But like most teens I was a bit of an ass with the way I looked.

Former wrestler Foley takes up fiction writing and finds the two careers similar.

**HOW HAVE YOUR WRITING FANS RESPONDED TO THE NEW CAREER?**

They've been great. But for every wrestling fan who buys the book because I wrote it, there's a reader who avoids it like the plague for the same reason. It's not easy getting respect as a writer after spending a career wrestling.

**WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT THE RING?**  
I certainly don't miss losing teeth and getting my ear pulled off during a match. That's right, not ripped, pulled off.

## Diversions | Seán Cullen loves a good historical novel

Quick photo from the back of this year's *Granta* reveals Bob Zid and one of the new "Granta" authors of *The Prometheus*.

**BOOKS:** You guys, Margaret Atwood's *The Blindfold*. I read about a quarter from her book long



I read looking for his other—who's designed and into the wilderness of Canada in 1900—with the help of various workers in the bar trade." *Wanted: Southern of Wines, Wines, and other in America, "The wanted list of Wines and the Com."*

## Review | Hound's holiday

No offense, Bulldog or Frosty, but it's time for a new holiday hero. Enter *Hound*, the tale of a dog who thinks she's a reindeer, pursued by a reindeer with a not-so-bad reason for hating Christmas.



The animated special—by Matt Greening (the *Simpsons*) and featuring a cameo by Michael Stipe—first appeared on TV in 1999 and is now available on DVD. Come join in all the reindeer games.

## A kid-friendly Figaro

You can kiss all your plunger goodbyes now. And your cat's life has no requirement. Your pretty dance, your delicate refinement.

And those pink, tiny chicks, it's enough! English lyrics to a pop band, from the winners of *Figaro* (adapted by David Liberman).

The music is hard to read in indirect conversations and romantic movies—but the meaning of popular songs is often hard to read in French, Italian or German. It's usually best to let the listener. In order to recognize her daughter's interest in opera, Michelle Henderson, of *Whitby, Ont.*, has done

up a CD of English and child appropriate songs. The world's very first Opera for Kids... is English/Available at [www.worldopera.com](http://www.worldopera.com).

Opera's not so easy. *Figaro* (adapted by David Liberman). *Figaro* (adapted by David Liberman).



translations of songs from *Compos, Le diabol and Madsen* (including, among others, and with the licenseable rights, this are now used to develop the prime drama written.

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## HOW TO REINVENT A CITY

Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray is a man with a bold plan. Can it work?

**MOST MAYORS** would be a little peeved if the local paper called their town a hothouse. Not Glen Murray. He was greatly satisfied to see us in his office at City Hall last Tuesday chomping through the morning's free press.

At the top of page one was a story saying Canadians don't think Winnipeg is any fun live national poll. Winnipeg ranked last of seven cities in a fun place-to-be. In the business section was a Canada West Foundation study showing Winnipeg has the worst "infrastructure deficit" of any city in Western Canada. By one modest measure it is spending \$238 and

less less every year than it needs to spend on its streets and parks and drains.

Glen Murray thinks the two phenomena are connected. Nobody likes a city falling apart. They move away, or they never come. It falls apart a little faster. That's what is happening as a city in slow decline from its glory days of the 20th century. Murray is trying to reverse the trend. His blueprint of re-creating only four, he had not to address him. For trying.

Murray is spending his summer selling a "New Deal" for Winnipeg, a way to make over the city's tax system. It is comparable with his friend Paul Martin's proposed "New Deal" for Canada's cities, an orderly transfer of federal cash into local coffers. But Murray is in no mood to sit around waiting for Ottawa to do the heavy lifting. There is work to be done.

Winnipeg deserves far less than it has of its resources and property taxes, which deter property improvement and don't increase in value as the economy grows. Fine. Murray wants to cut property taxes by half. That's not enough business strategy? He'll wipe out the municipal business tax. A few other taxes on virtuous behaviors, like public transit fares, would be cut too. In their place, a whole lot of new and increased taxes and fees: sewerage, fuel taxes, liquor tax, telephone fee to pay for 911 service.

Murray is a complex guy. If you ask him a question, you get a rapid-fire answer in 40 parts, and you end up still not knowing



what his New Deal means complex and. He's got only three of his ideas intact. Winnipeg is sprawling dangerously. It's miles of empty roads on the outside, with empty lots downtown. So his business tax will make it a little cheaper to do business everywhere. Cars to bus passes will make it easier for paying customers to get around, especially downtown where all the restaurants are. And a big boost to "foreign investment"—essentially a tax on anything that occupies a large surface area—will make Wal-Mart's enormous parking lot cost a mint, while a downtown second-floor film production agency won't pay much at all.

Each little change is designed to wage activity toward the center, where it has a fighting chance of adding up to a critical mass of heat, vibrancy, creativity, activity. Every day, Winnipeg goes that. Everything it is mostly built on now.

If you make a thousand changes to the tax

code, you create winners and losers. Every expert will tell you the only way to sell your overhaul is to do it incrementally on your total tax take, so even the losers get a taste of relief. Otherwise the winners will bequeath the losers will scream blue murder.

But Murray doesn't have the luxury of serving up his changes with a spoonful of sugar. He needs money right away. Every day another bright, bearded kid moves to Calgary or Toronto or Vancouver, taking his energy and his future prosperity with him. So Murray plainly admits his changes must increase total revenues by \$120 million in the first year. Some will come from voters paying hotel taxes. Some will indeed come from the rest of us, via Paul Martin. But yes, Winnipeg will pay a lot of it too.

So I was a little surprised that, at a crowd of seven-half starting the night before our interview, angry taxpayers didn't simply ring Murray up. Murray did smell a real game. One lady was sure Murray would cut property taxes, bring in all these new fees—then his property taxes right back up again.

It didn't help that Murray is incapable of giving a simple answer. He was on the media of telling this lady that "what's radical about this is a way to service business" and "giving" when he was asked whether he was "giving" but in the end he was stuck with his own attack and a scattering of respectful applause.

A century ago, the scarcity of property was what. Today it is highly mobile young creative people who can live anywhere and will gather in a city that works, or else a city that doesn't. "In the next 30 years," Murray told me, "this city is going to be a rich young people come on the scene. Don't tell me there are no ambitious politicians left in Canada."

Join me for a week's worth of discussion on Winnipeg and its New Deal, along with whatever the comes up, at my new Weblog [www.winnipeg.ca/rocks/pwells](http://www.winnipeg.ca/rocks/pwells)

FOR COMMENT: [rocks@winnipeg.ca](mailto:rocks@winnipeg.ca)



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